



THE GOLDEN AGE

BATMAN

VOLUME THREE





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BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE VOLUME 1

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All stories by **BILL FINGER**, except where noted. All covers and stories pencilled by **BOB KANE** and inked by **JERRY ROBINSON**, except where noted.

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* These titles were originally untitled and are titled here for reader convenience.

Until the 1970s, it was not common practice in the comic book industry to credit all stories. In the preparation of this collection, we have used our best efforts to review any surviving records and consult any available databases and knowledgeable parties. We regret the innate limitations of this process and any missing or misassigned attributions that may occur.



No. 57



The BATMAN

Detective

NOV.

COMICS



BATMAN

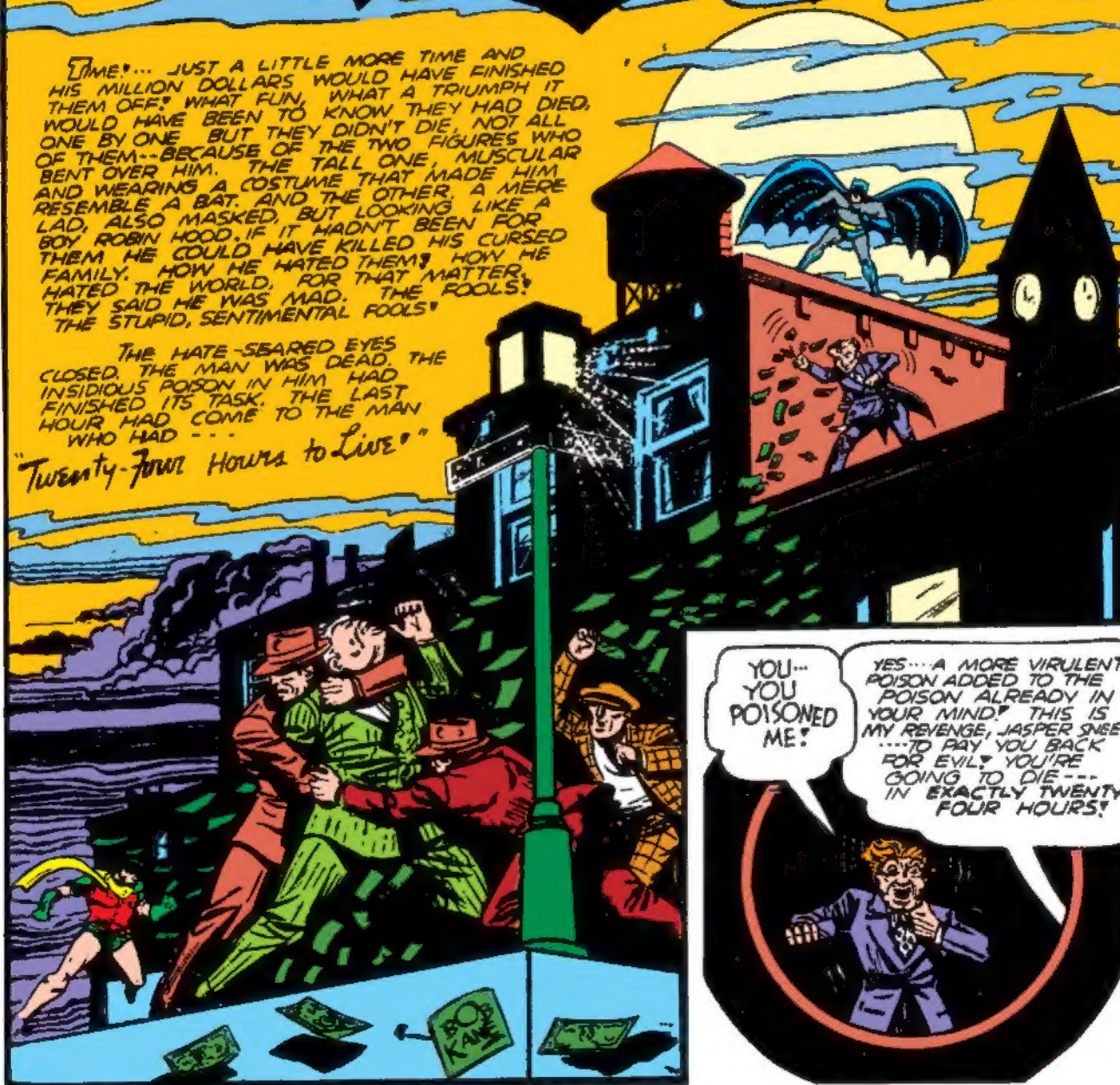
WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

"TIME!... JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME AND HIS MILLION DOLLARS WOULD HAVE FINISHED THEM OFF! WHAT FUN, WHAT A TRIUMPH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO KNOW THEY HAD DIED, ONE BY ONE, BUT THEY DIDN'T DIE, NOT ALL OF THEM--BECAUSE OF THE TWO FIGURES WHO BENT OVER HIM. THE TALL ONE, MUSCULAR AND WEARING A COSTUME THAT MADE HIM RESEMBLE A BAT, AND THE OTHER, A MERE LAD, ALSO MASKED, BUT LOOKING LIKE A BOY ROBIN HOOD. IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THEM HE COULD HAVE KILLED HIS CURSED FAMILY. HOW HE HATED THEM! HOW HE HATED THE WORLD, FOR THAT MATTER. THEY SAID HE WAS MAD. THE FOOLS! THE STUPID, SENTIMENTAL FOOLS!"

THE HATE-SEARED EYES CLOSED. THE MAN WAS DEAD. THE INSIDIOUS POISON IN HIM HAD FINISHED ITS TASK. THE LAST HOUR HAD COME TO THE MAN WHO HAD ---

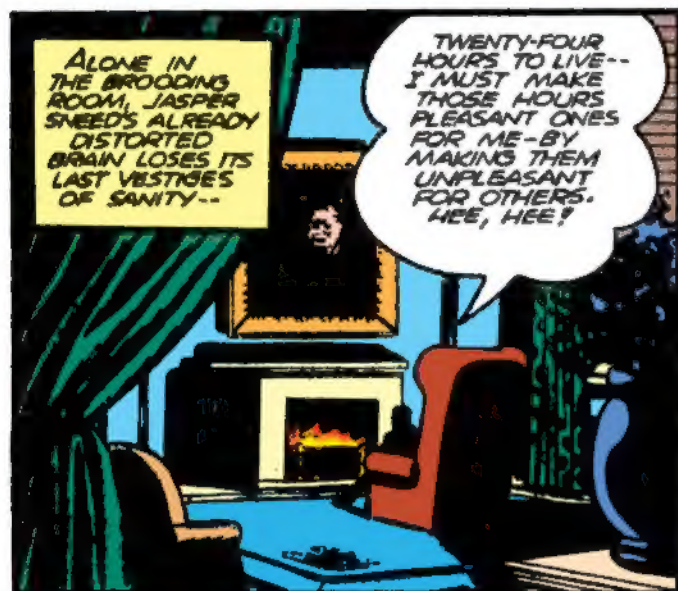
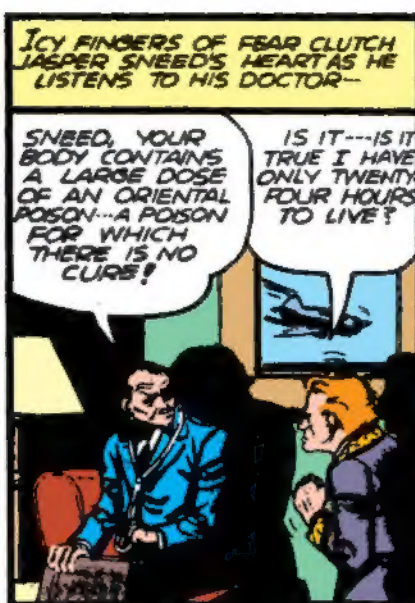
"Twenty-four Hours to Live!"



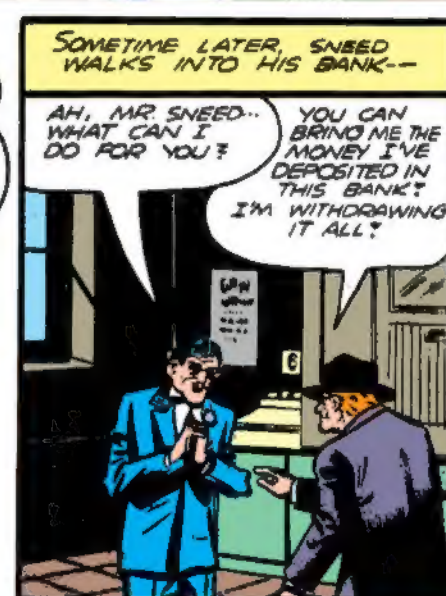
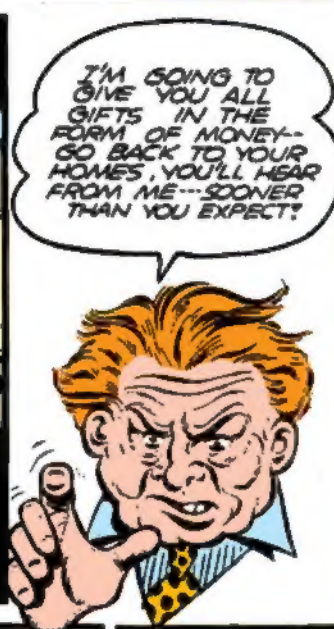
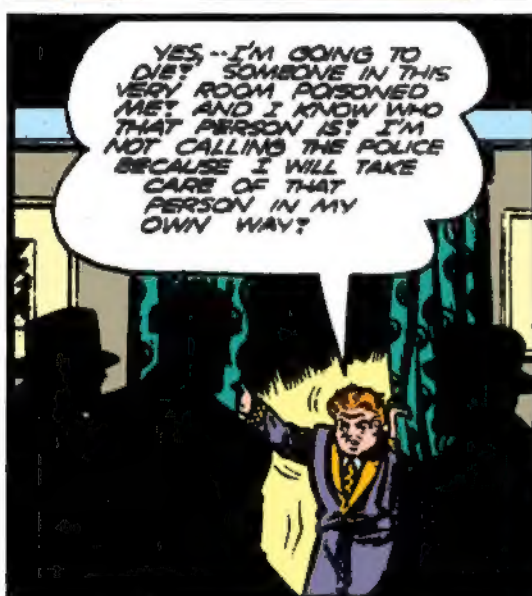
YOU...
YOU
POISONED
ME!

YES... A MORE VIRULENT
POISON ADDED TO THE
POISON ALREADY IN
YOUR MIND! THIS IS
MY REVENGE, JASPER SNEEL
...TO PAY YOU BACK
FOR EVIL! YOU'RE
GOING TO DIE---
IN EXACTLY TWENTY-
FOUR HOURS!

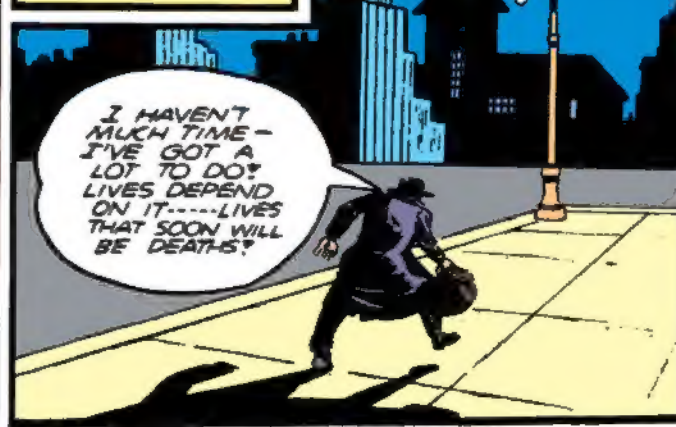




MORE GUESTS--JASPER SNEED'S BUSINESS PARTNER, JOHN HARVEY-- AND A COUSIN, AN UNDERTAKER, MOSMER CLAY---



AND SO BEGINS A BIZARRE TALE OF A MADMAN OWNING A MILLION DOLLARS--YET WITH ONLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO LIVE?



JASPER SNEED MAKES HIS FIRST PURCHASE--

HERE YOU ARE, SIR-- A FINE CAR. SHALL I DELIVER IT TO YOUR HOME?

NO...I'LL TAKE IT WITH ME AND PAY CASH NOW?

JASPER SNEED MAKES HIS SECOND PURCHASE--

I'D LIKE A STEEL SAW AND A SCREW DRIVER--

YES, SIR--

A SHORT TIME LATER--

IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO BUY THIS CAR FOR ME, JASPER?

NOT AT ALL, HOSMER-- I PROMISED YOU A GIFT, DIDN'T I? LOOK--THE BRAKE CAME OFF?

AND NOW THE STEERING WHEEL HAS COME LOOSE. NO USE SAVING THEM IF THEY'RE NO GOOD, EN, HOSMER?

W-WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU'VE GONE CRAZY? LET ME OUT OF HERE?

WHY-- THERE'S NO DOORKNOB HERE?

NOR ON MY SIDE EITHER? THAT'S WHY I LEFT MY DOOR OPEN? AS A MATTER OF FACT, I SAWED ALL THE DOORKNOBS OFF?

I CAN'T GET OUT? AND I CAN'T STOP OR STEER THE CAR? I'M TRAPPED? THE WINDOWS--?

NO USE TRYING TO SMASH THE WINDOWS EITHER. THEY'RE TOO MUCH FOR YOUR FISTS? THEY'RE SHATTERPROOF?

HOSMER CLAY, THE UNDERTAKER, IS SEALED FAST IN HIS TOMB?

HELP? LET ME OUT?

BUBBLES MARK HIS WATERY GRAVE---AS A MADMAN GLOATS?

YOU WERE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE DAY YOU WOULD BURY ME? THE TABLES ARE TURNED? I BURIED YOU? BUT TIME IS FLEETING--AND THERE IS SO MUCH I MUST DO

SIX HOURS HAVE PASSED--AND JASPER SNEED STILL HAS EIGHTEEN HOURS TO LIVE...AND PLAN DEATH?

SNEED NEXT VISITS THE HANGOUT OF A NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL--

I WANT TO BUY THE SERVICES OF SOME MEN WHO CAN DO A JOB RIGHT? AND KEEP THEIR MOUTH SHUT!

A T'OUSAND DOLLAR BILL? T'ANKS-- FOLLOW ME.

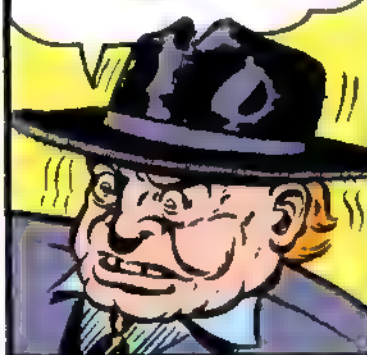


I HOLD \$100,000 IN MY HAND - BUT THE BILLS ARE CUT IN HALF? DO WHAT I ASK AND YOU'LL GET THE OTHER HALVES?

A HUNDRED GRAND? OKAY, MISTER...WHO DO YOU WANT RUBBED OUT?



I WANT MY BUSINESS PARTNER, JOHN HARVEY, KILLED? HE TRIED TO STEAL MONEY FROM MY CONCERN. HE HATES ME AND I HATE HIM? HE MUST DIE IN AN OLD ABANDONED STEEL MILL I OWN?



SNEED OUTLINES A DESIGN FOR MURDER--

...HE'S ALWAYS TAUNTING ME-- HE LIKES TO SEE ME BURN UP? THIS TIME I WANT TO SEE HIM BURN UP FOR GOOD?

OKAY, BUD-- WE'LL MAKE IT HOT FOR HIM!

AND HOW?



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, LUCILLE SNEED IS TELLING A GOOD FRIEND, LINDA PAGE, ABOUT HER UNCLE'S ODD TALK. ALSO LISTENING IS BRUCE WAYNE--

YOU MEAN, HE SAID HE WAS POISONED-- AND HAD ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS TO LIVE?

YES--AND THEN HE LAUGHED AND SAID HE WAS GOING TO GIVE US ALL OUTF? I TELL YOU HE'S GONE MAD?

THE POOR FELLOW IS SUFFERING FROM DELUSIONS?



BUT LATER AT HIS HOME, BRUCE'S THOUGHTS SEEM VERY DIFFERENT AS HE SPEAKS TO HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON--

YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S SOMETHING TO WHAT THE GIRL SAID?

YES--AND ONE MAN PROBABLY KNOWS MORE ABOUT SNEED THAN ANYONE ELSE--JOHN HARVEY, HIS BUSINESS PARTNER--



C'MON, THERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS I MUST ASK JOHN HARVEY?



AND SOME MOMENTS LATER--

UH...WHY...N-NO...M-MR. HARVEY WENT OUT WITH S-SOME MEN...I T-THINK THEY WERE INTERESTED IN BUYING THE OLD STEEL MILL? AH-EM... O-ULP... W-WHO SHALL I SAY C-CALLED?

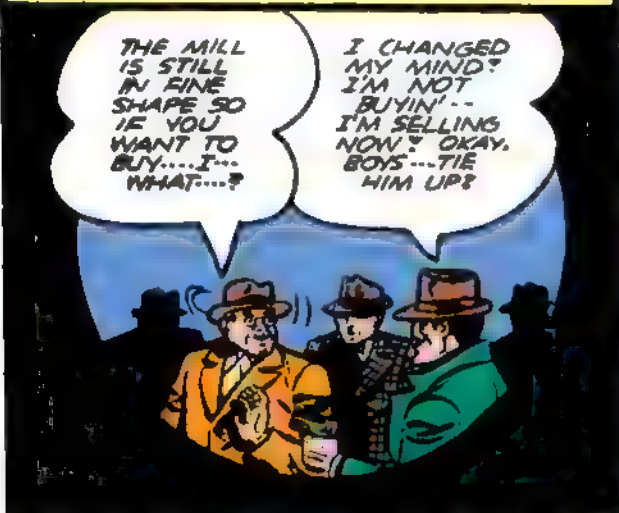
SANTA CLAUS? LET'S GO, ROBIN. I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'RE GOING TO SEE SOME ACTION?



MINUTES LATER---INSIDE THE ABANDONED STEEL MILL--

THE MILL IS STILL IN FINE SHAPE SO IF YOU WANT TO BUY...I...WHAT...?

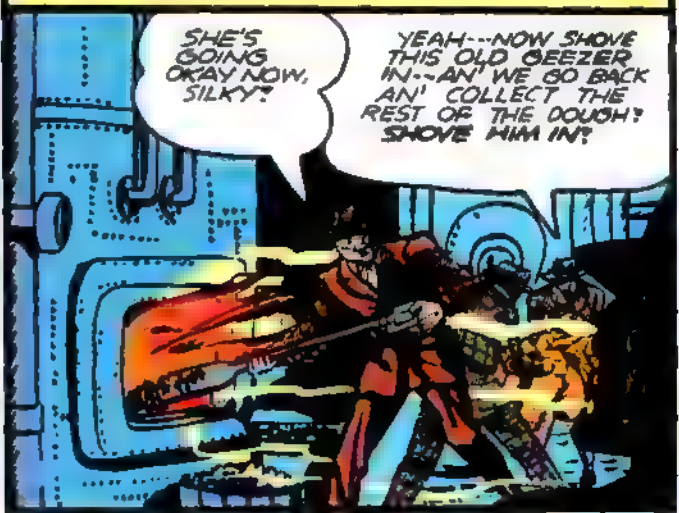
I CHANGED MY MIND? I'M NOT BUYIN'-- I'M SELLING NOW? OKAY, BOYS---TIE HIM UP!



AN OLD FURNACE IS SOON ROARING WITH RENEWED LIFE--SO THAT IT MAY TAKE DEATH!

SHE'S GOING OKAY NOW, SILKY?

YEAH---NOW SHOVE THIS OLD GEEZER IN--AN' WE GO BACK AN' COLLECT THE REST OF THE DOUGH? SHOVE HIM IN!



SUDDENLY, A BAT-LIKE SHAPE DARTS FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS---

ALL RIGHT, RATE---YOU CAN DISPENSE WITH THAT NOW?

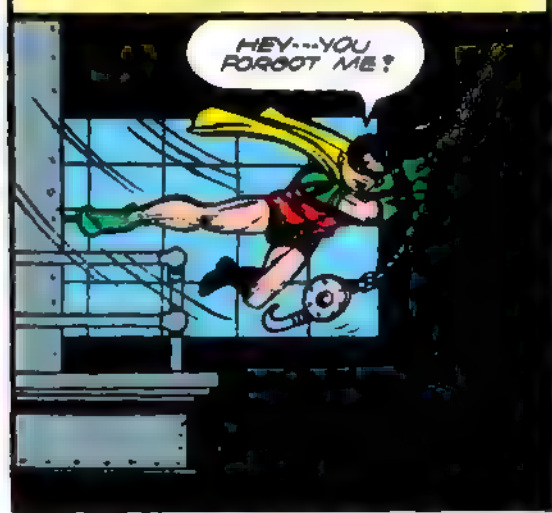
THE BATMAN?

PLUG HIM!



BUT FROM A SUSPENDED CHAIN -- ANOTHER FIGURE SWINGS ACROSS THE VAST ROOM---

HEY---YOU FORGOT ME?



AH? VERY SATISFYING-- VERY SATISFYING, INDEED?

LOVELY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING LATELY, ISN'T IT?



YA LITTLE BRAT? I'LL--

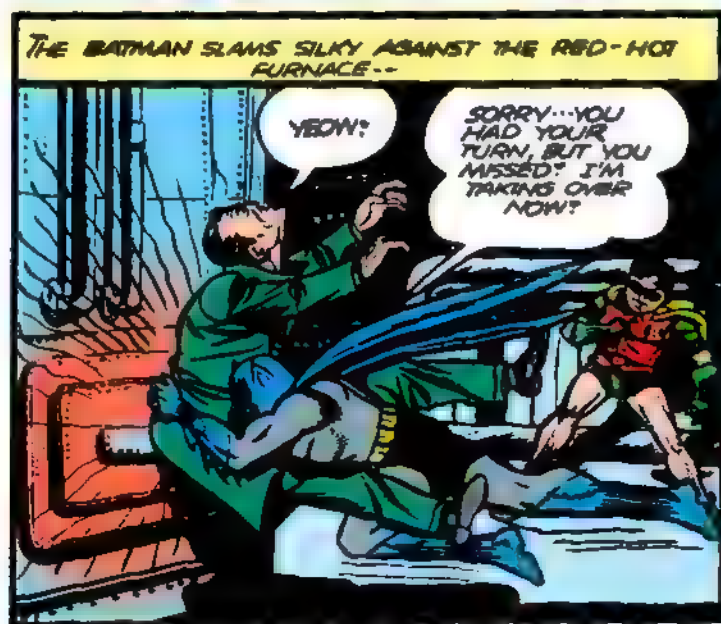
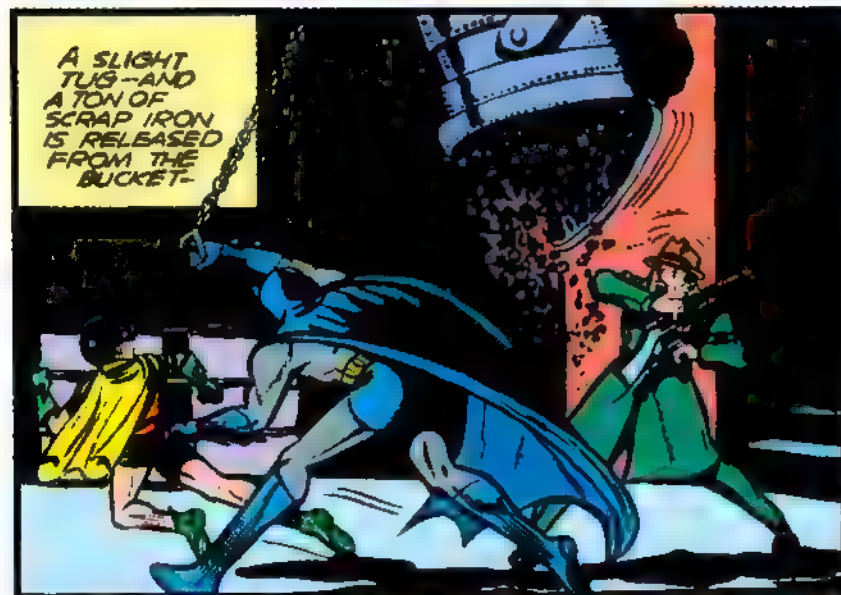
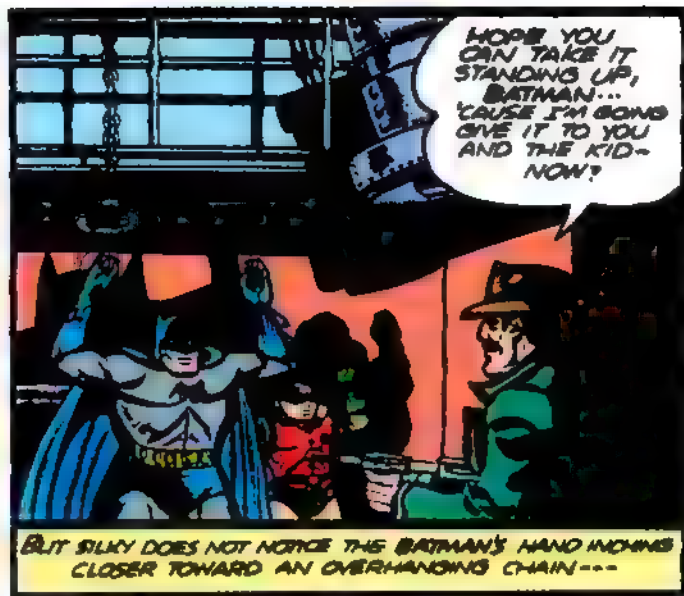
WOW! HE AIN'T FOOLING WITH THAT GUN?

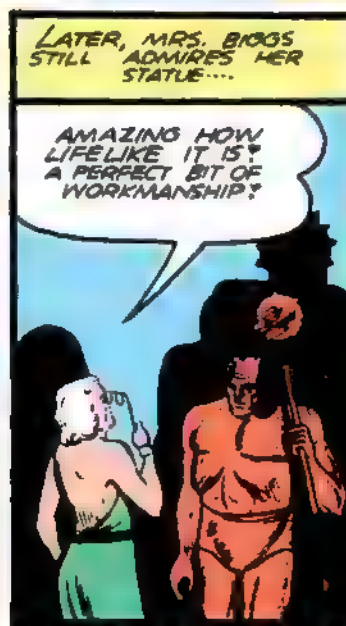
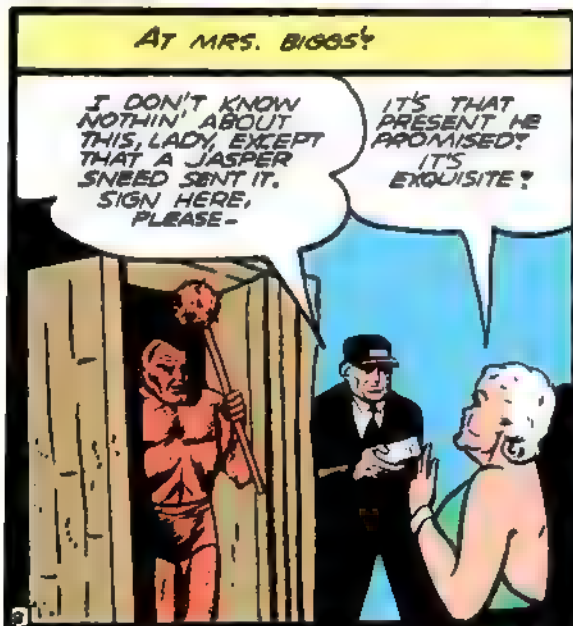
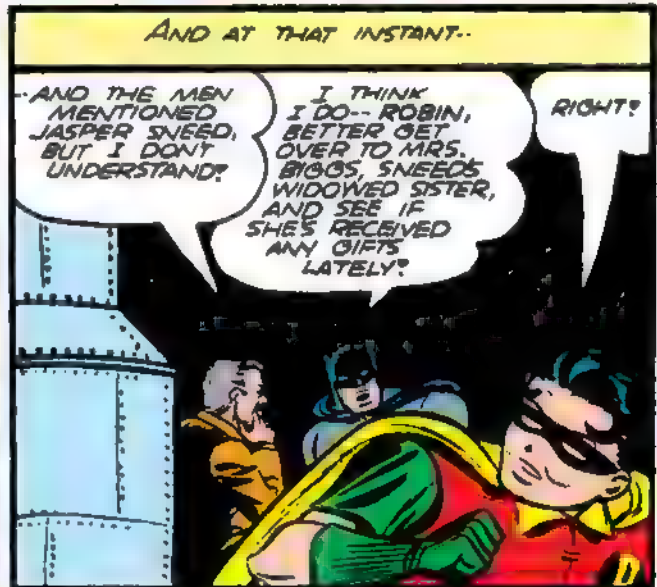
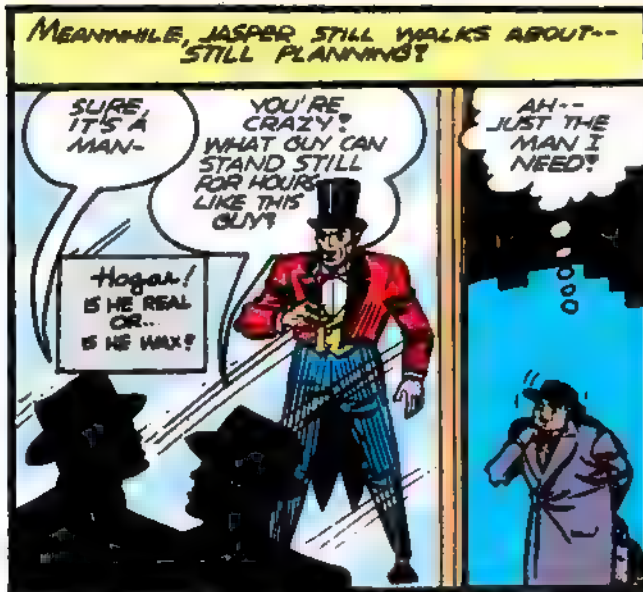


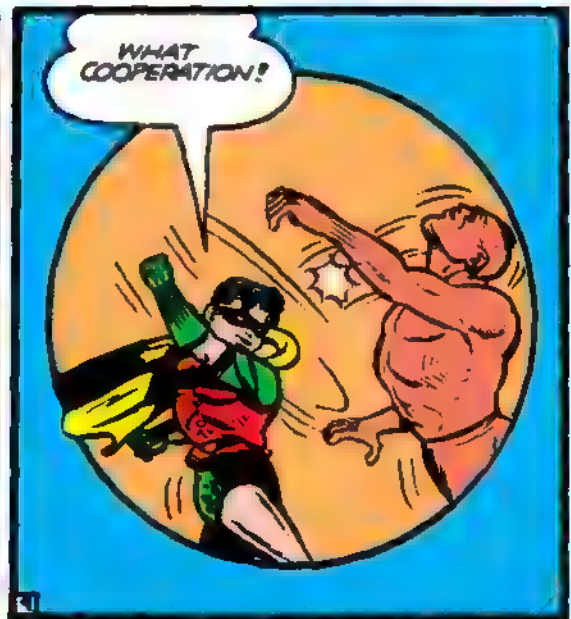
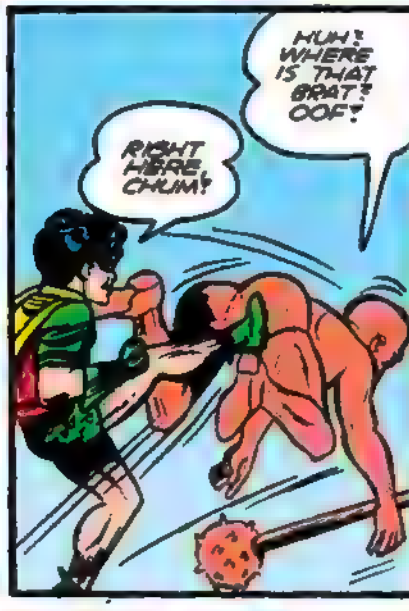
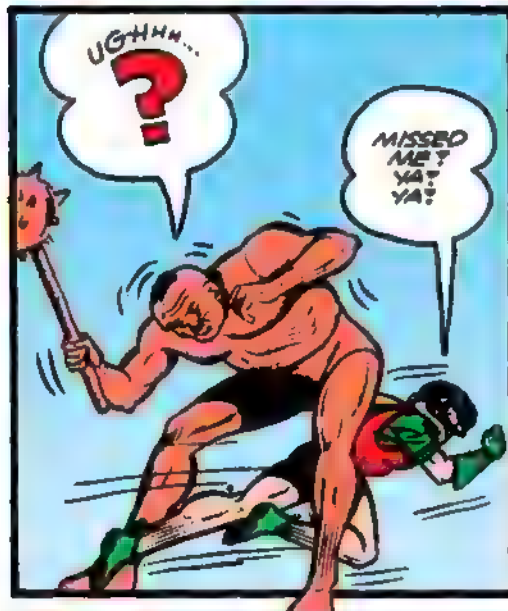
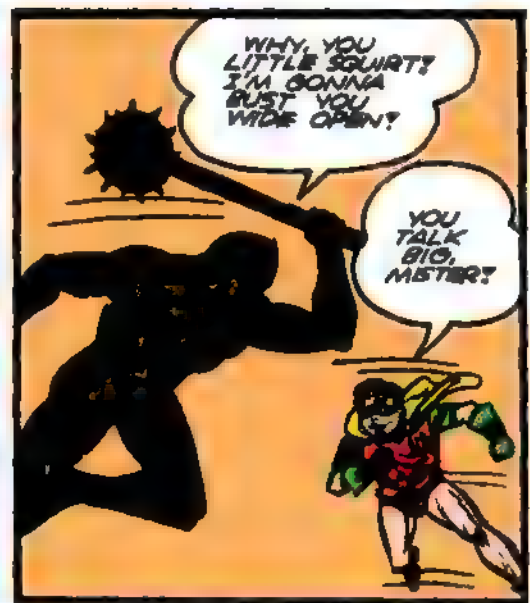
YOU SHOULD TAKE MORE EXERCISE -- YOU'RE PUTTING ON WEIGHT?

PHHNEY!









MEANWHILE, SNEED IS AT AN EXCLUSIVE GOLFING CLUB HOUSE--

ARE YOU GOING TO ACCEPT MY OFFER...?

\$200,000 IS QUITE GENEROUS! WE'LL BE ABLE TO BUILD ANOTHER GOLF COURSE--

WE'LL LEAVE IT VACANT FOR YOU AS YOU REQUESTED THE GOLF COURSE IS YOURS?

NEXT, THE MADMAN RETURNS TO THE CRIMINAL HANGOUT--

SO THE OTHERS HAVEN'T RETURNED YET? NO DOUBT THE JOB IS TAKING THEM A LITTLE TIME? NO MATTER--NOW I WANT THREE MEN WHO CAN POSE AS GENTLEMEN.

SURE--ANYTHING FOR YOU, MISTER?

AND SOME MOMENTS LATER, IN MRS. BIGGS' RESIDENCE----

...AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED. WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

CHECKING UP ON THE SNEED FAMILY HISTORY?

OH, TO THINK THAT JASPER WOULD TRY TO KILL ME! THE PHONE IS RINGING!

STANLEY?

YES, MOTHER! I'VE JUST OBTAIN AN INVITATION FROM UNCLE JASPER TO JOIN THAT EXCLUSIVE GOLF CLUB. I'M GOING THERE FOR A ROUND NOW!

STANLEY? DON'T--DON'T GO! DON'T... HE... HE'S HUNG UP! HE DIDN'T HEAR ME!

SOMETHING TO DO WITH JASPER EH? GIVE US THE DETAILS. WE'LL SAVE YOUR SON!

SOMETIME LATER--ON THE TEE-OFF! STANLEY BIGGS IS IN THE COMPANY OF THE "CLUB" MEMBERS--

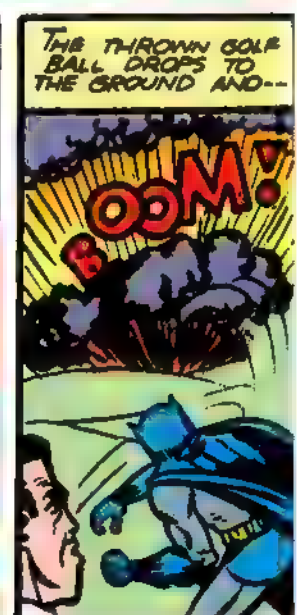
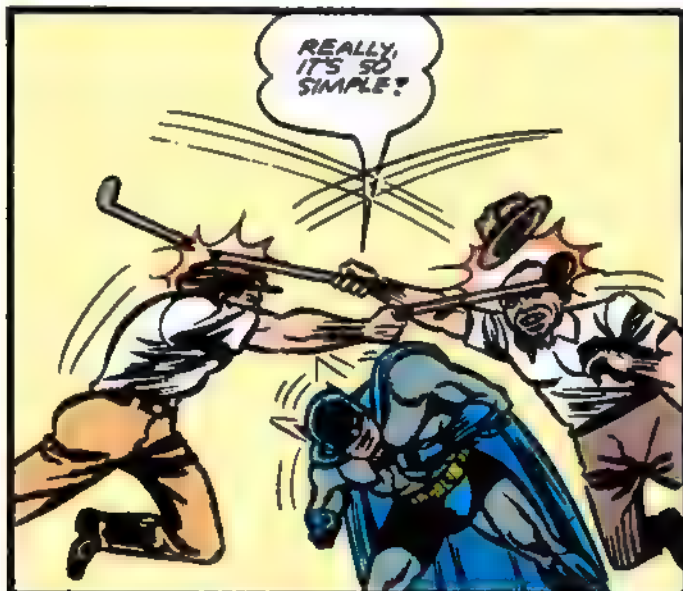
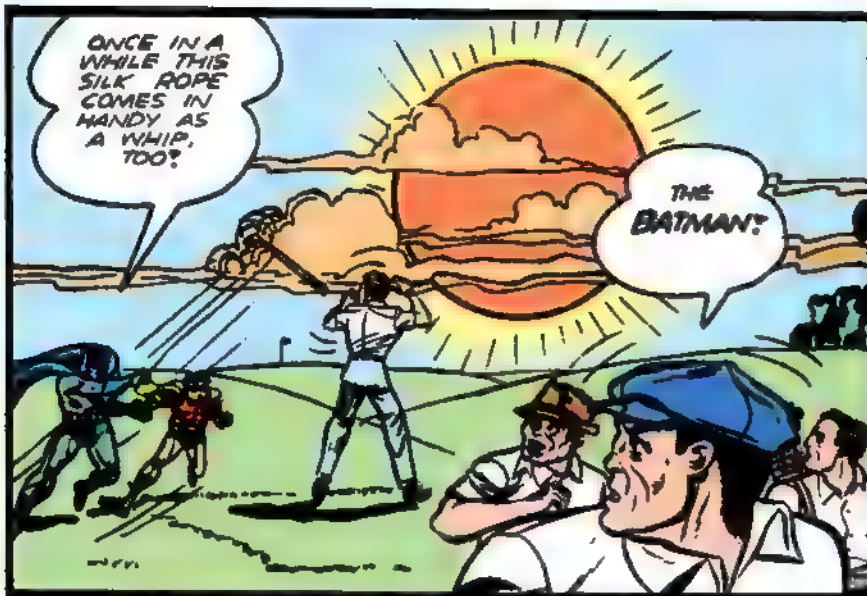
THE COURSE LOOKS EMPTY! BUT WHY ARE YOU STANDING BACK SO FAR?

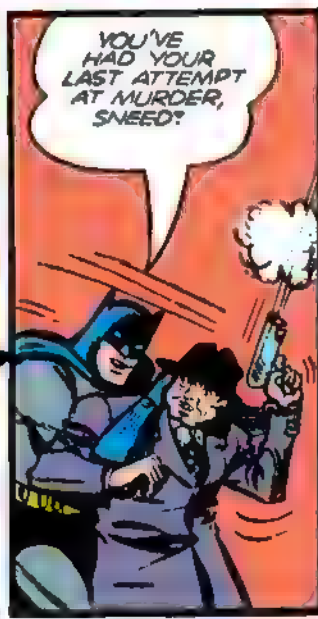
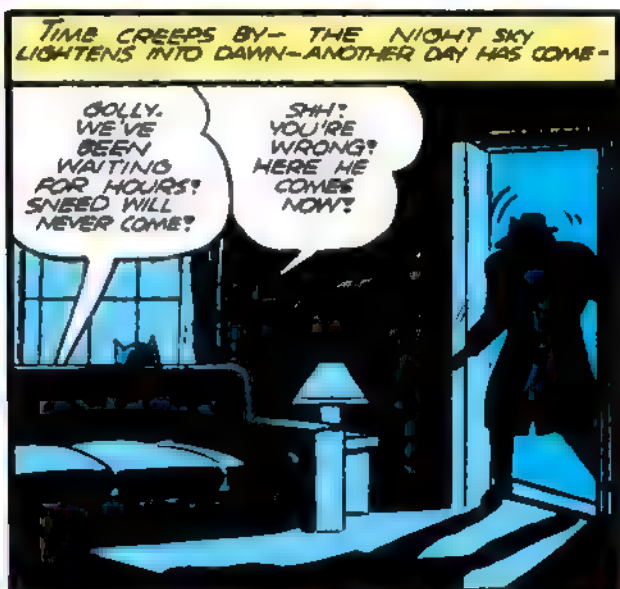
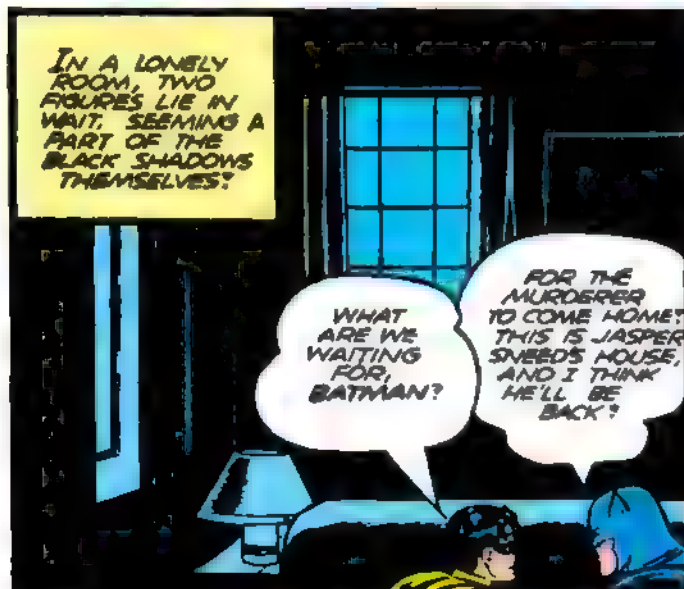
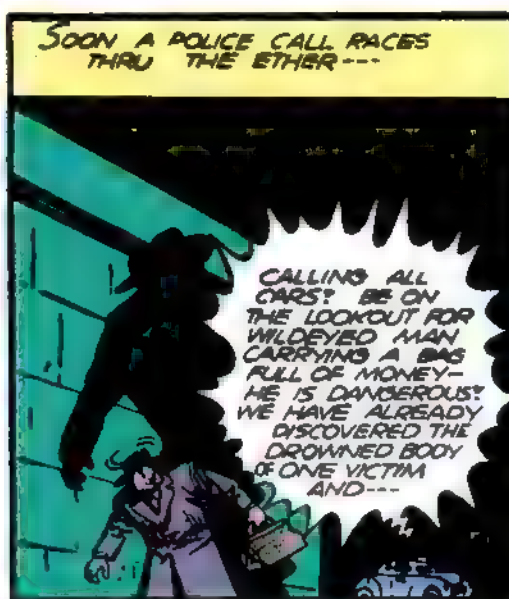
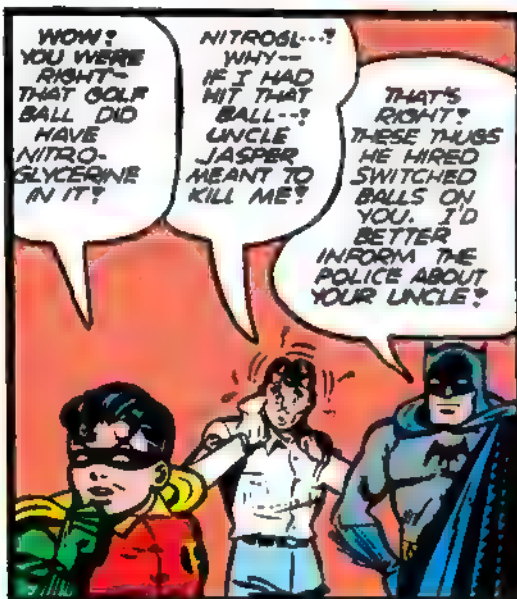
ER--IT'S THE CLUB RULE--MUST STAND A GOOD NUMBER OF FEET BACK OF THE TEE-OFF!

TAKING HIS STANCE, STANLEY DRAGS BACK HIS CLUB FOR A SMASHING DRIVE--

BUT SUDDENLY SOMETHING WHISTLES THRU THE AIR AND WHIPS THE CLUB OUT OF STANLEY'S HANDS?

WHAT?





MANIACAL FURY POURS NEW STRENGTH INTO THE MADMAN'S ARMS---

I'LL KILL YOU--I'LL CHOKE YOU TO DEATH!

BUT AN IRON FIST WHIPS UP AND EXPLODES ON HIS JAW, FLINGING HIM LIMPLY TO THE FLOOR!

ALL RIGHT, SNEED--YOUR MURDERING DAYS ARE OVER--
THERE'S MORE TRUTH IN THAT THAN YOU THINK! ALL MY DAYS ARE OVER!

MY TIME IS UP--MY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF LIFE--ARE OVER--
AHHHH--

HE'S DEAD?
THEN... I GUESS... THERE'S NO USE IN KEEPING UP THE PRETENSE ANY LONGER--

UNDER THE MAKEUP ARE SURPRISING FEATURES....

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH? YOU'RE JASPER'S TWIN BROTHER, RICHARD, AREN'T YOU? I LOOKED UP YOUR FAMILY HISTORY--

YES---I GAVE HIM POISON. WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER, WE LOVED THE SAME GIRL...BUT SHE MARRIED HIM. I WENT AWAY-- THEN ONE DAY HE CALLED ME--HE WAS IN TROUBLE?

"HE HAD BEEN IN A HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT. BUT A WITNESS RECOGNIZED HIS FACE. IT MEANT PRISON FOR JASPER!"

I STILL LOVED MARY, HIS WIFE? IT MEANT DISGRACE FOR HER. SO I TOOK HIS PLACE--PRETENDED I, RICHARD, WAS THE MAN AT THE ACCIDENT? I WENT TO PRISON--TWO YEARS LATER, MARY DIED--OF A BROKEN HEART? I LEARNED HE HAD TREATED HER SHABBILY?

I CAN GUESS THE REST? YOU BROKE PRISON, ADOPTED A DISGUISE--GOT A JOB HERE--AND PLANNED THIS INDIGNOUS DEATH FOR JASPER. YOU'VE HAD YOUR REVENGE BUT I'M AFRAID IT MEANS THE CHAIR FOR YOU!

BOB ARE

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT I HAVEN'T MUCH LONGER THAN A FEW MINUTES TO LIVE! RIGHT AFTER I GAVE JASPER THAT POISON, I TOOK SOME MYSELF!

THE END



No. 58



The BATMAN

Detective

DEC.

COMICS



BATMAN

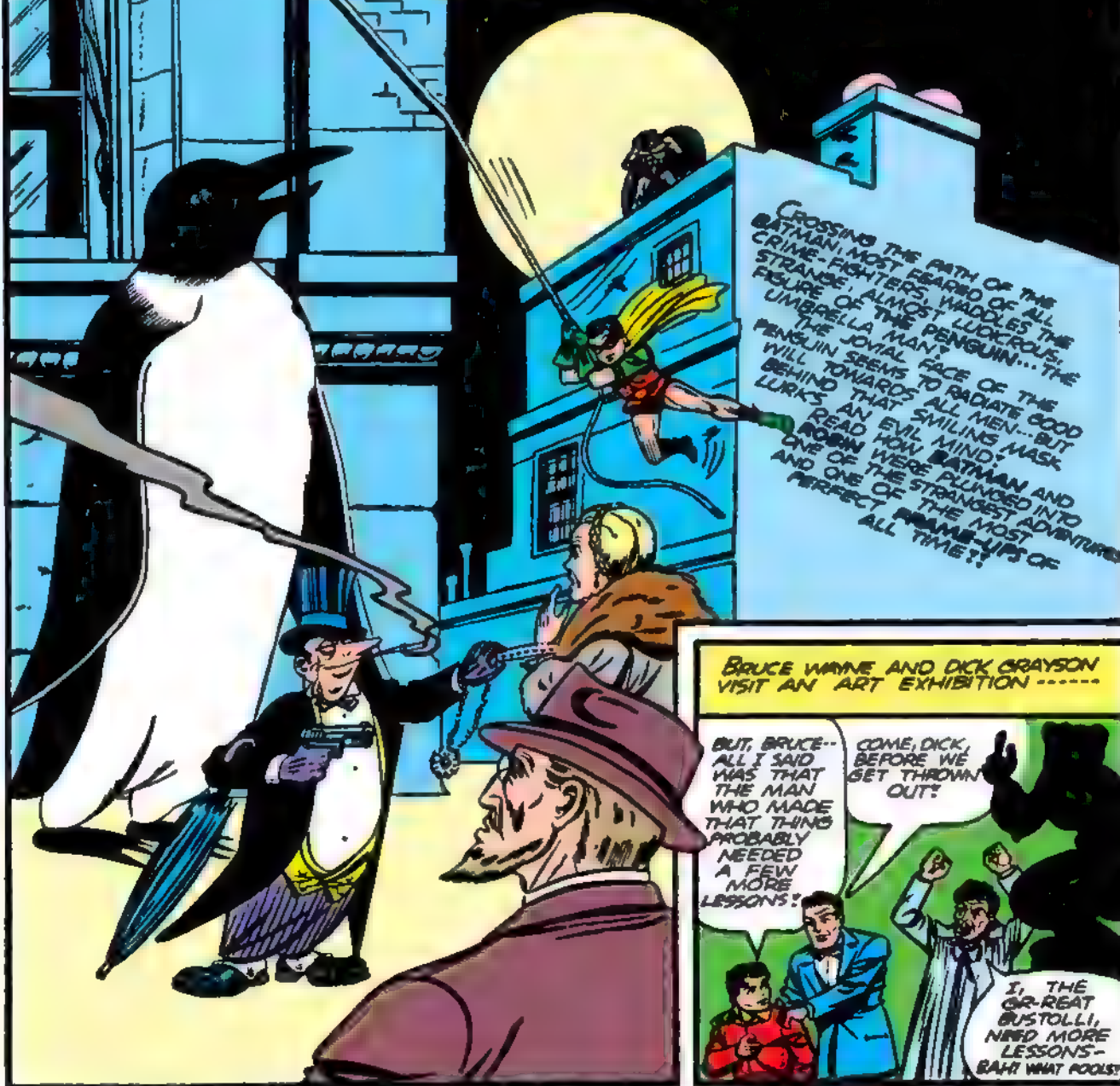
WITH

ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

by
BOB
KANE

NO. 100



CROSSING THE PATH OF THE BATMAN, MOST FEARED OF ALL CRIME-FIGHTERS, WADDLES THE STRANGE, ALMOST LUCKLESS, FIGURE OF THE PENGUIN... THE UMBRELLA MAN. THE JOVIAL FACE OF THE PENGUIN SEEMS TO RADIATE GOOD WILL TOWARDS ALL MEN... BUT BEHIND THAT SMILING MASK LURKS AN EVIL MIND. READ HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE PLUNGED INTO ONE OF THE STRANGEST ADVENTURES AND ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT MAKE-UPS OF ALL TIME!!

BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON VISIT AN ART EXHIBITION -----

BUT, BRUCE-- ALL I SAID WAS THAT THE MAN WHO MADE THAT THING PROBABLY NEEDED A FEW MORE LESSONS!

COME, DICK, BEFORE WE GET THROWN OUT!

I, THE GR-REAT GUSTOLLI, NEEED MORE LESSONS-- BAH! WHAT FOOL!

DICK LEARNS THAT ART CAN BE EXPENSIVE.

YES, DICK, THESE TWO SMALL WATTEAUS ARE WORTH ROUGHLY A HALF MILLION DOLLARS BETWEEN THEM!

WHY? MAYBE I OUGHT TO TAKE UP PAINTING?

BEAUTIFUL-- MARVELOUS-- GORGEOUS--

LET'S GO BACK. YOU REALLY MUST LEARN NOT TO LAUGH AT PEOPLE OR THINGS, BECAUSE THEY MAY BE--ER--ODD LOOKING?

BUT, BRUCE, LOOK FOR YOURSELF

HA? HA? HE DOES LOOK LIKE A PENGUIN AT THAT?

SUDDENLY:

NOBODY CAN LEAVE! THE TWO WATTEAU PAINTINGS HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THEIR FRAMES AND STOLEN--WE WILL HAVE TO SEARCH EVERYONE HERE!

THOSE ARE THE VERY PAINTINGS WE JUST WERE ADMIRING?

GOSH!

RICH MAN--POOR MAN--BEGGARMAN--AND THIEF--ALL MUST SUBMIT TO THE SEARCH!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOING TO BE--ER--EMBARRASSING?

I DON'T MIND A-BEN SEARCH! I ONLY HOPE--A DEY CATCH DA THIEF?

IT'S OUTRAGEOUSLY IMAGINE SEARCHING ME?

CURSES! THERE GOES A MILLION DOLLARS!

COUNT PERE! WHY, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PHONY! GOODBYE!

LOOKS LIKE FINE FEATHERS DON'T ALWAYS MAKE FINE BIRDS?

BRUCE AND DICK SUBMIT UNCOMPLAININGLY TO BEING SEARCHED?

SORRY, MR. WAYNE, BUT WE GOTTA CHECK EVERYBODY!

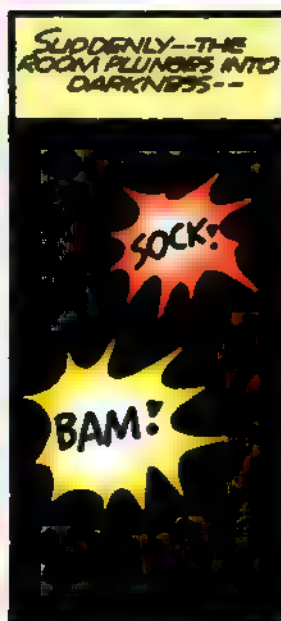
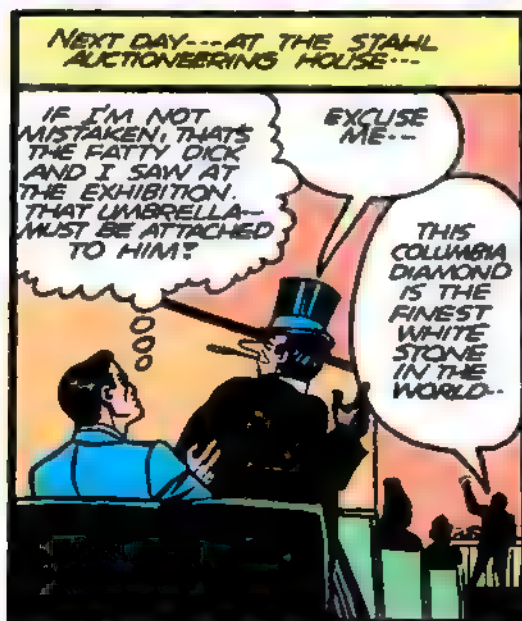
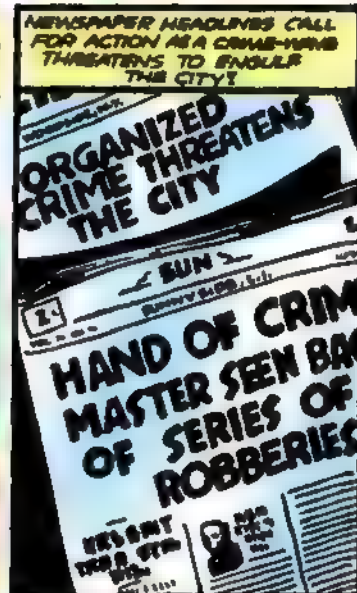
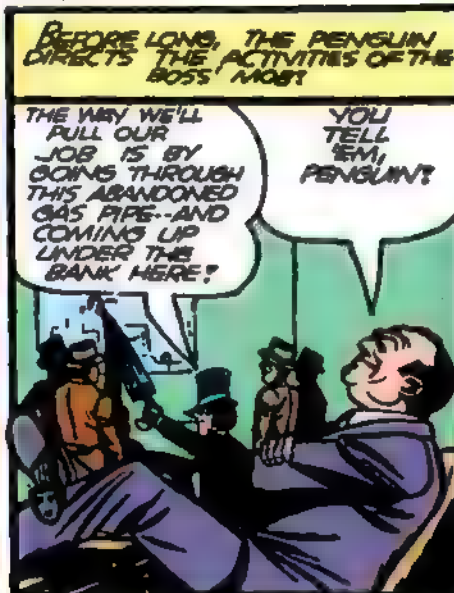
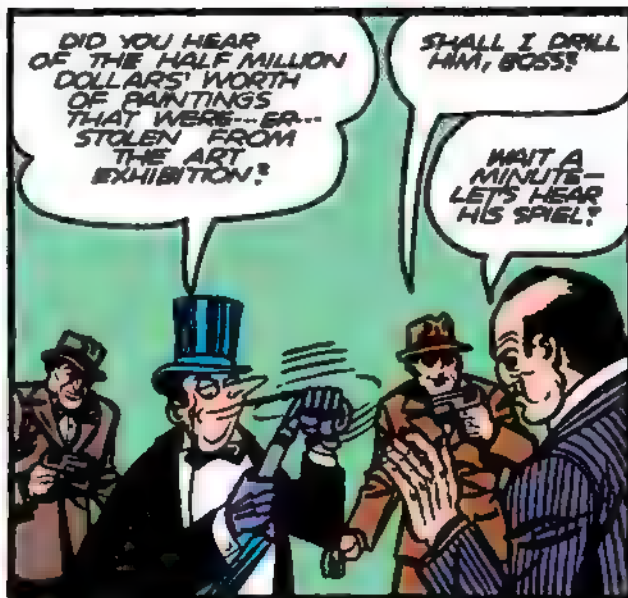
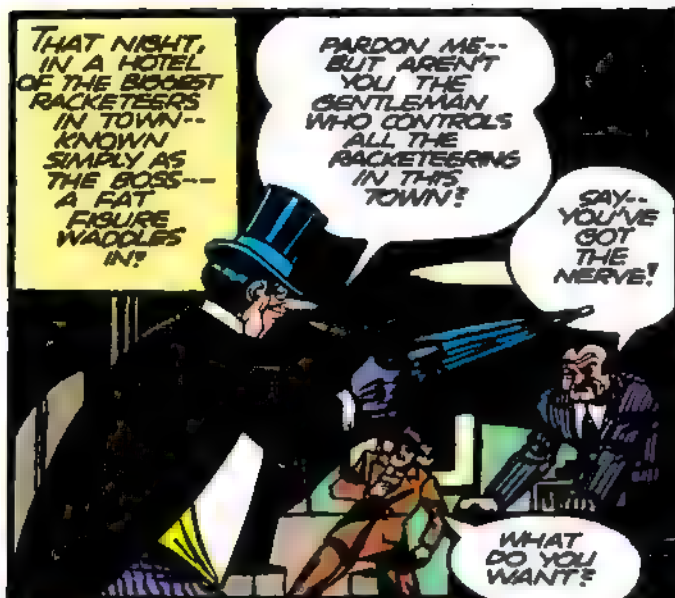
PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT, JONES!

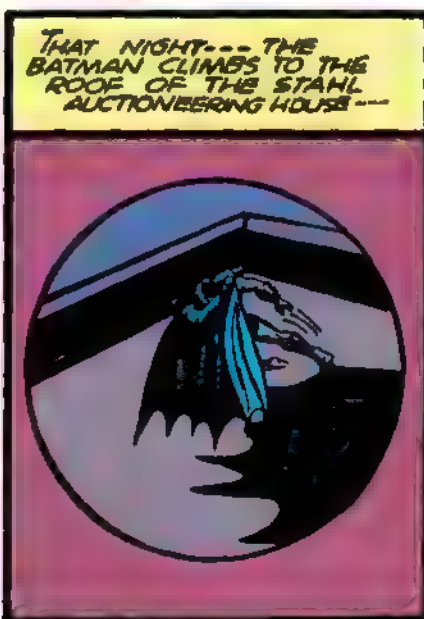
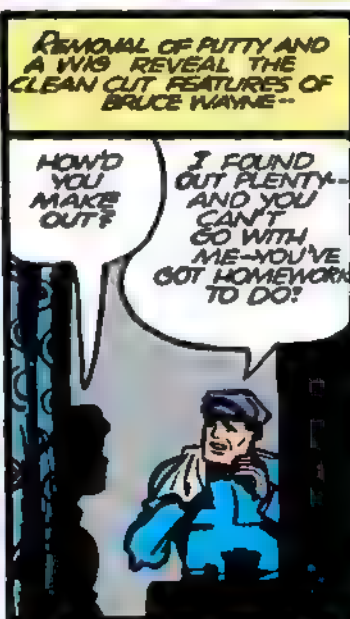
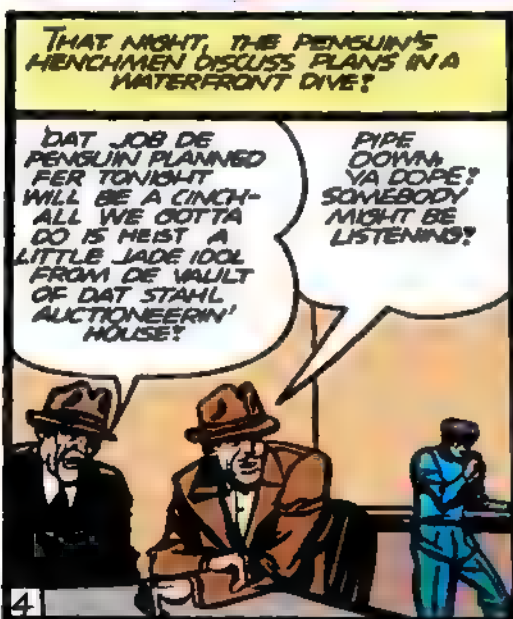
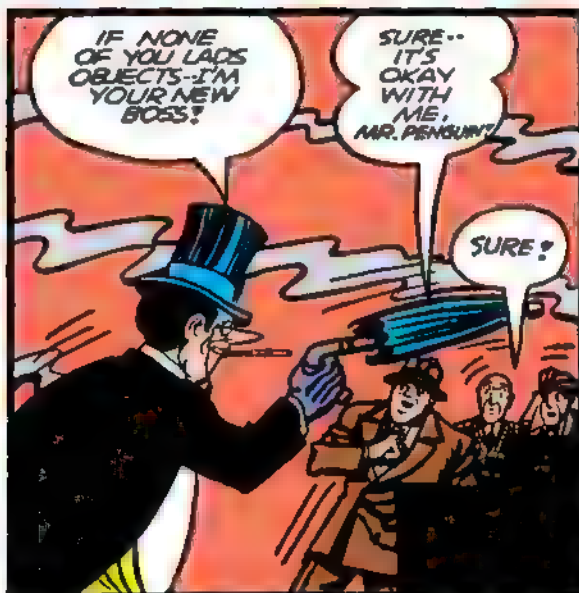
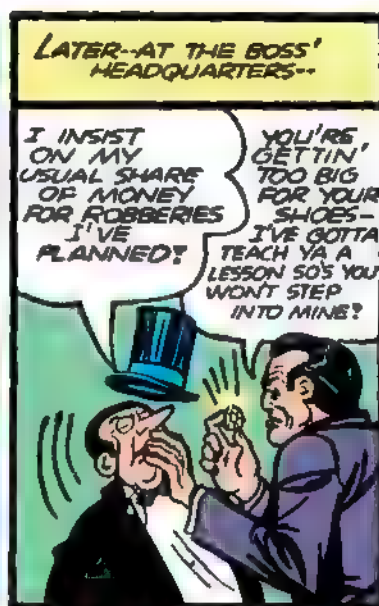
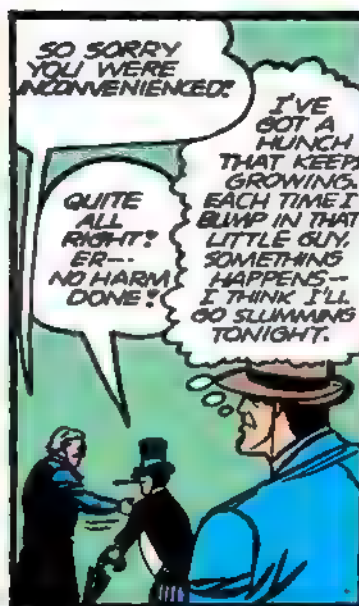
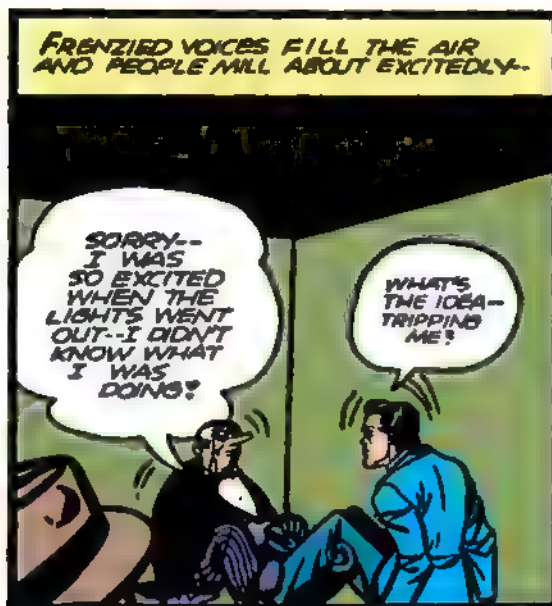
I'D TAKE OFF MY SHOES, BUT I'VE GOT A HOLE IN MY STOCKING.

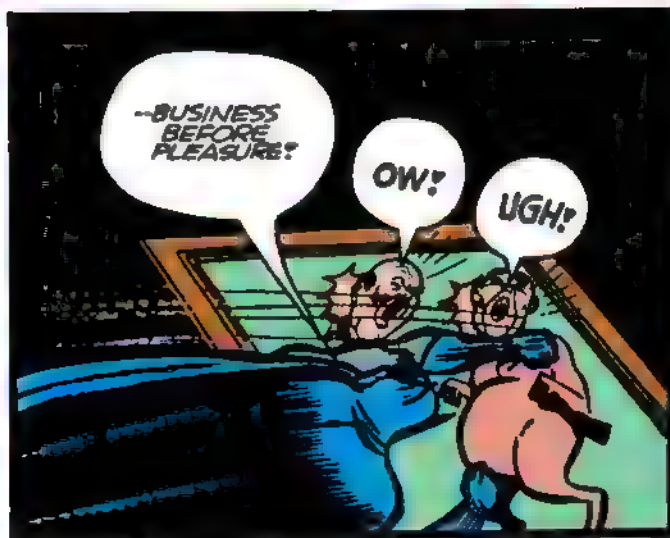
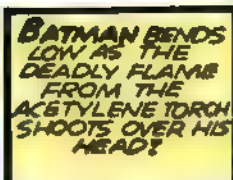
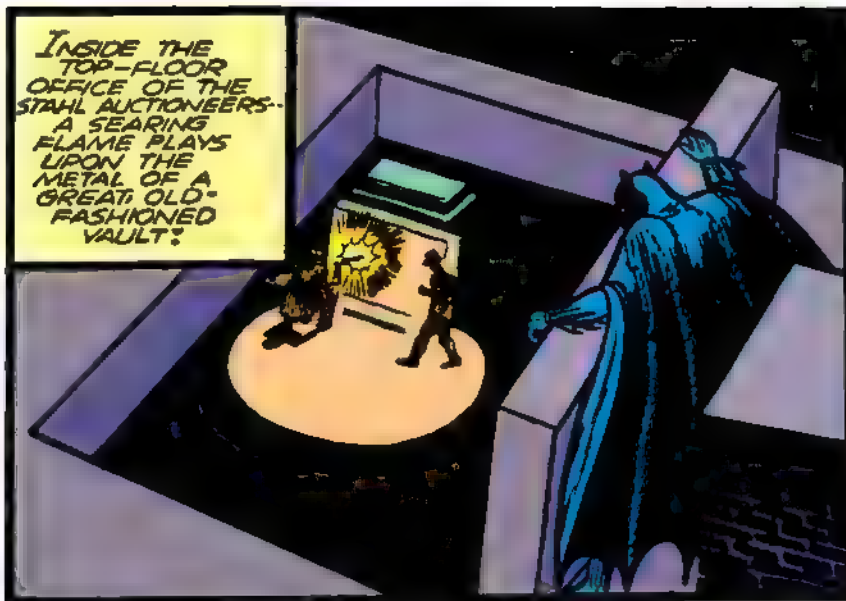
THE GUARDS ARE BAFFLED AS THEIR SEARCH ENDS FRUITLESSLY!

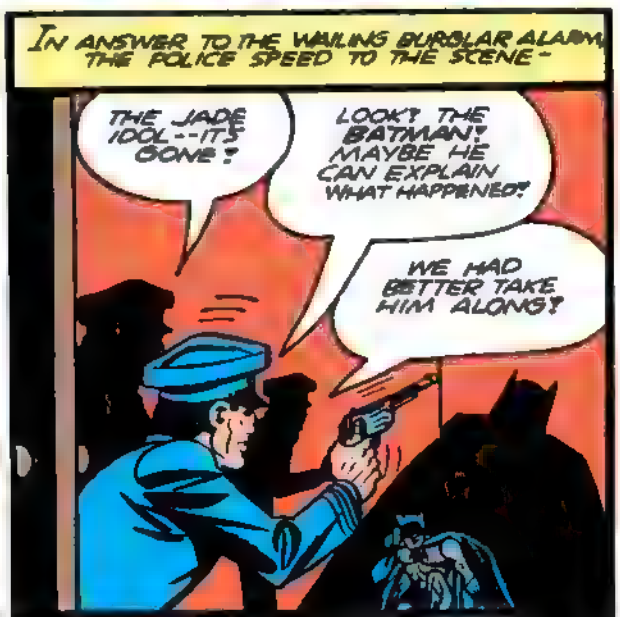
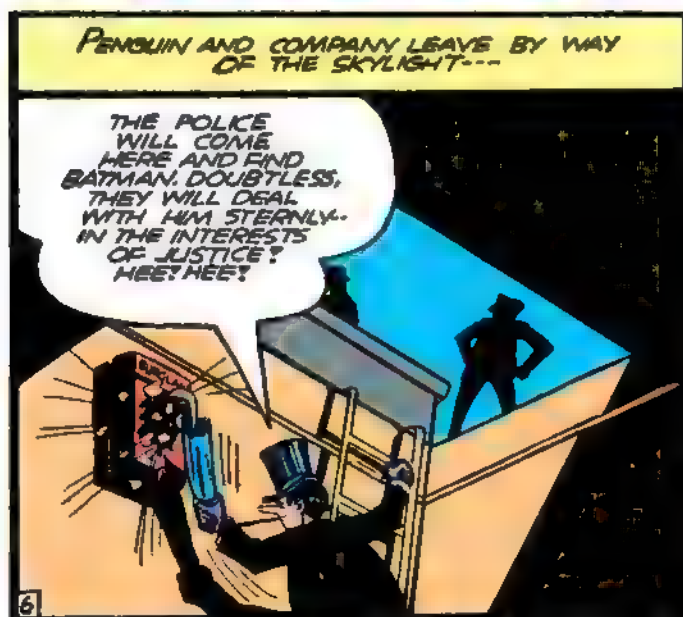
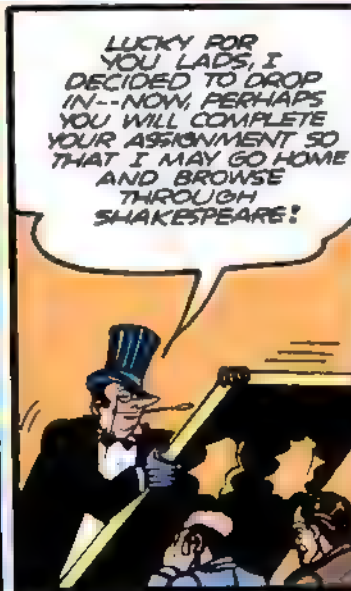
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU--HRE--HRE-- DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK TO OPEN AN UMBRELLA INDOORS?

HE AIN'T GOT THEM EITHER. THEY WOULDN'T HAVE FLOWN AWAY!









STILL DAZED, THE BATMAN IS TAKEN TO A LUXURIOUS MANSION.

WHERE AM I?-- WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?!

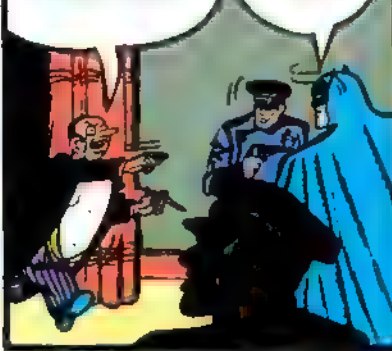
JUST FORMALITY, BATMAN! WE WANT YOU TO TELL MR. BONIFACE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS IDOL--



A PUDDY FIGURE TODDLES IN-- THE PENGUIN?

THAT'S HIM? I'D RECOGNIZE THAT MASK AND CLOAK OF HIS ANYWHERE--

AM I GOING CRAZY? HE'S--



BUT, MR. BONIFACE! YOU MUST BE WRONG! THIS IS THE BATMAN!

I DON'T CARE! HE'S BEEN THREATENING ME FOR WEEKS! HE SAID I'D HAVE TO PAY HIM FOR PROTECTION-- AND THAT HE STOOD IN SO WELL WITH THE POLICE, THAT NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I COMPLAINED! I WANT HIM LOCKED UP!



DON'T WORRY, SIR--WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

THANK YOU-- I WAS SURE YOU'D SEE YOUR DUTY!

THAT GAS-- I CAN'T THINK--



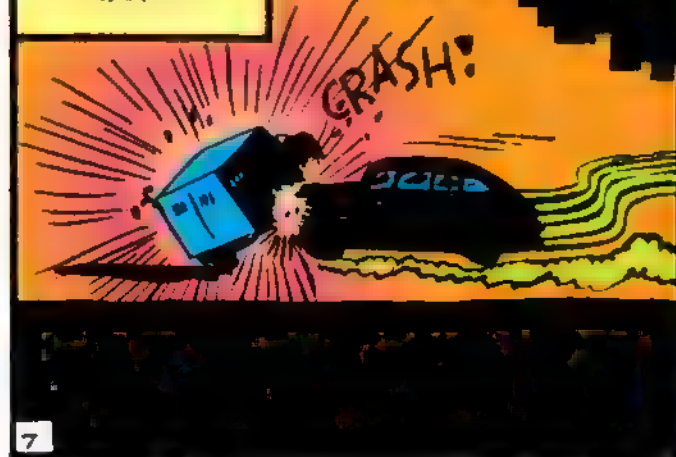
AS THE POLICE VAN--CONTAINING THE BATMAN--GOES DOWN THE STREET, A SLEEK, BLACK CAR MOVES FROM IT'S POSITION ON THE CORNER!

NOW WE FINISH THE REST OF THE PENGUIN'S PLANS!



SUDDENLY--THE BLACK CAR DELIBERATELY SIDESWIPE THE POLICE VAN--

CRASH!



GRAB 'IM! THE PENGUIN WANTS 'IM!

AS THE UNCONSCIOUS POLICE SPRAWL IN THE GUTTER, THE THUGS POUNCE UPON THE DAZED BATMAN--



LATER--IN THE PENGUIN'S MANSION--

WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE AFTER CONVINCING THE POLICE THAT I'M A CROOK?

FOR SEVERAL REASONS, MY DEAR BATMAN-- FIRST I COLLECT INSURANCE ON MY OWN LITTLE PIECE OF JADE--

SECONDLY--I REMAIN IN THE CLEAR AS AN INNOCENT COLLECTOR? I KNEW THAT WE WOULD INEVITABLY COME TO GRIPS--SO--I MADE PLANS I'VE CALLED THE POLICE AND THERE'S AN ALARM OUT FOR YOU!

THE BLARING RADIO EXPLAINS--

CALLING ALL CARS--- PICK UP BATMAN-- ROBBED STAHL AUCTIONEERS-- ESCAPED AS HE WAS BEING BROUGHT TO JAIL!

YOU SEE?

I SEE? A FRAME UP? IF I STAY HERE, I'M GUILTY-- AND IF I ESCAPE, I'LL GET SHOT BY THE POLICE?

THE SITUATION SEEMS HOPELESS---WHEN A DARING THOUGHT STRIKES THE BATMAN--

ONLY A SMALL CHANCE-- BUT ITS A CHANCE IF DICK IS AT HOME?

LET'S NOT DWELL UPON SUCH UNPLEASANT THOUGHTS. LET US ADMIRE MY UMBRELLAS-- HMM-- HMM--

THE BATMAN'S FEET COME TOGETHER IN AN APPARENTLY INNOCENT MOVEMENT--

WATCHA DOING?

MY FOOT ITCHES--AND IF YOU WON'T UNTIE MY HANDS I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO SCRATCH WITH MY FEET?

HMMM? GOT THIS ONE IN SPAIN? HMM?

THE PRESSURE OF A FOOT AND THE SWITCH OF THE TWO-WAY TELEPHONE CONCEALED IN THE BATMAN'S FOOT CLICKS?

BATMAN'S FOOT BEGINS TAPPING ON THE FLOOR IN A STRANGE MANNER--

MIGHT AS WELL CATCH UP WITH MY DANCING-- SITTING DOWN!

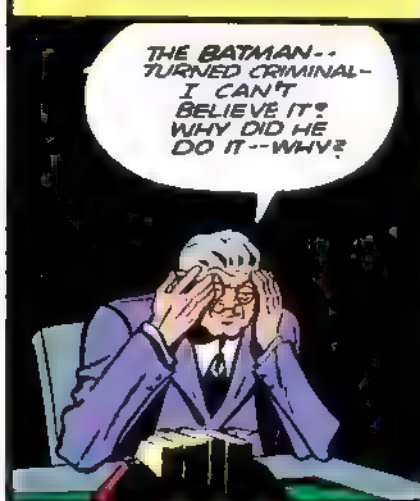
AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, DICK GRAYSON HAS HEARD THE POLICE RADIO CALLS DENOUNCING THE BATMAN-- DICK GOES INTO ACTION AS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER--

THEY CAN'T CALL BATMAN A MURDERER? I'LL FIND HIM SOME-- HOW, AND-- SAY-- MY TELEPHONE BELT-- IT'S TAPPING A MESSAGE--IN MORSE CODE--

ROBIN-- I'M BEING HELD IN THE MANSION ON THE CORNER OF LINCOLN AVENUE-- HURRY----

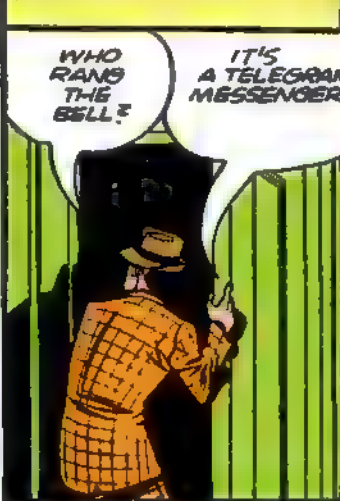
THE RESOURCEFUL BATMAN TAPS HIS FOOT IN MORSE CODE INFORMING ROBIN OF HIS WHEREABOUTS?

AND ANOTHER PERSON IS ALSO WORRIED--AND BROKEN...
COMMISSIONER GORDON--



THE BATMAN--
TURNED CRIMINAL--
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT?
WHY DID HE
DO IT--WHY?

SOON AFTER--THE
PENGUIN'S HOUSE ON THE
CORNER OF LINCOLN AVENUE--



WHO
RANG
THE
BELL?

IT'S
A TELEGRAM
MESSENGER?



AND
HERE'S
YOUR
MESSAGE?

SSSPLLFF!

ROBIN DASHES INSIDE THE HOUSE--BUT FINDS THE
ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE MANY---



STOP THIS
KID--HE
WORKS WITH
THE
BATMAN!

I'LL
STOP HIM--
FER
GOOD?



GOSH?
I'M
GETTING
POPULAR--
ER--NICE
HEADWORK,
BOYS?

OUCH!

GOT
YOU--
OOOHH!

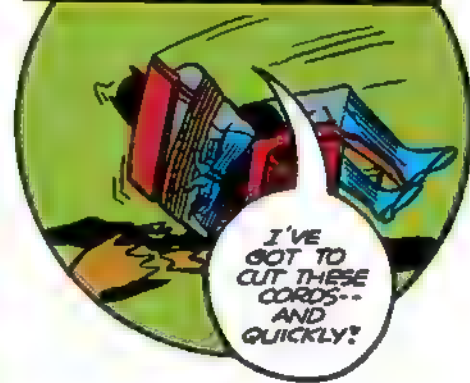
AS IF RELEASED BY A GIANT SPRING--ROBIN'S AGILE
BODY CRASHES AGAINST THE HEAVILY LADEN TABLE---



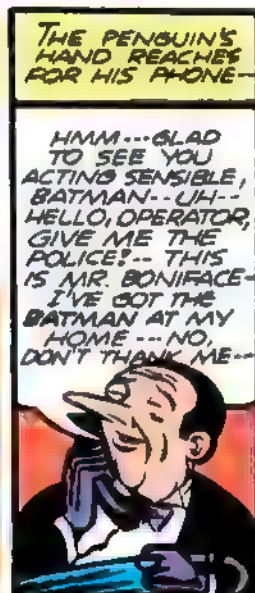
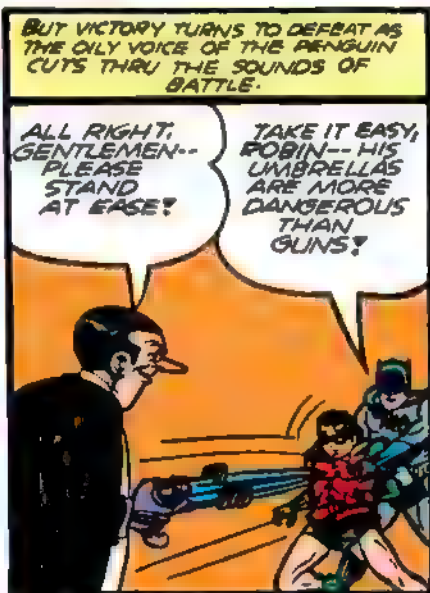
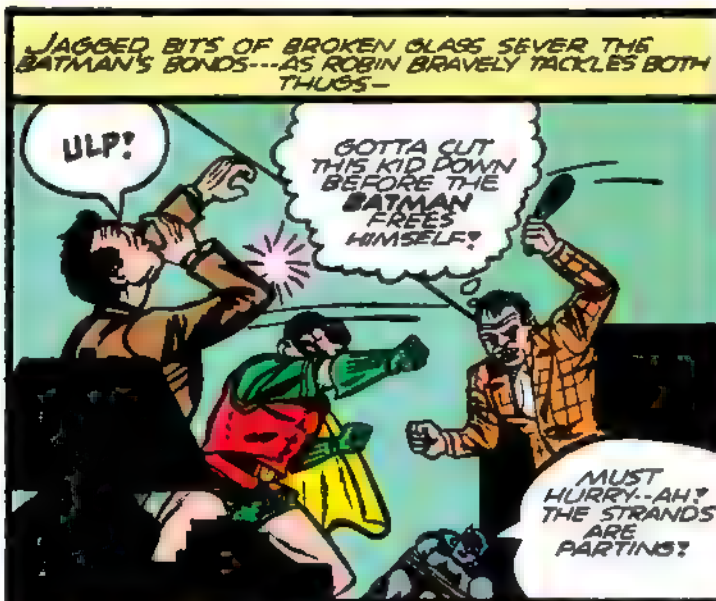
GOT IT?
NICE
WORK,
ROBIN!

OOOPS!
HOW
CLUMSY
OF ME--
DON'T CUT
YOURSELF,
BATMAN--
GOT IT!

AS ROBIN WHIRLS TO
MEET THE CHARGING
THUGS--BATMAN WHIRLS
HIS BOUND BODY--AND
THE CHAIR TO WHICH HE IS
ATTACHED--TO THE FLOOR--



I'VE
GOT TO
CUT THESE
CORDS--
AND
QUICKLY!



POLICE RUSHING IN, FIND THAT BATMAN HAS ESCAPED?



WHERE'S THE BATMAN? YOU SAID YOU HAD HIM HERE?

SO I DID, BUT HE--AH-- LEFT RATHER ABRUPTLY?

BATMAN AND ROBIN SPEED TO THEIR APARTMENT--

OUR BIRD-LIKE FRIEND SHOULD BE ABOUT READY FOR A SUPER-COURT. THE POLICE ARE AFTER ME-- AND HE IS IN THE CLEAR! I THINK THE TRAIL IS WINDING TO AN END --ONE WAY OR ANOTHER?



NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, A BLIND MAN IS SEEN STANDING NEAR THE PENGUIN'S MANSION, HIS QUAVERING VOICE CALLING FOR ALMS. THEN ONE DARK NIGHT--



THIS JOB'LL BE EASY-- WE GOT ALL THE GROUNDWORK LAID OUT?

IN THE HEART OF THE BOWERY-- WHERE HUMBLE FLOP-HOUSES RUB SHOULDERS WITH TALL STately BUILDINGS THAT HOUSE UNTOLD WEALTH, HERE IS WHERE THE GREAT DIAMOND EXCHANGES MAKE THEIR OFFICES!

GREETINGS, WE ARE HERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION FOR OUR LECTURES ON HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY. ARE OUR--ER-- CHAMBERS INTACT?

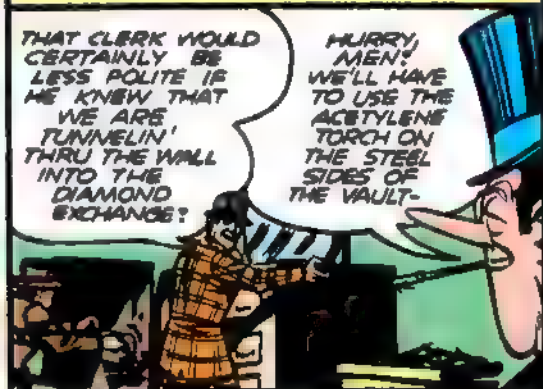
I NEVER RENT IT TO NOBODY BUT YOU-- JUST LIKE YOU ORDERED!



IN THE PENGUIN'S ROOM--

THAT CLERK WOULD CERTAINLY BE LESS POLITE IF HE KNEW THAT WE ARE TUNNELIN' THRU THE WALL INTO THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE?

HURRY, MEN! WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE ACETYLENE TORCH ON THE STEEL SIDES OF THE VAULT--



MEANWHILE IN THE STREET--



THERE THEY ARE-- I RECOGNIZE THEIR SHADOWS?

FOR A BLIND MAN-- YOU SEE PRETTY GOOD?

MINUTES PASS AS THE ODD PAIR KEEPS THEIR CEASELESS VIGIL-- AND THEN--



JUST AS I SUSPECTED-- THEY'VE TUNNELED THROUGH THEIR ROOM AND INTO THE DIAMOND EXCHANGE BUILDING! LET'S GO!

IN THE DARKENED ALLEYWAY, THE BLIND MAN AND THE URCHIN RIP OFF THEIR OUTER CLOTHES, AND ARE REVEALED AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN--

HERE I COME!

WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST, ROBIN!

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MOVE UPWARD UNTIL THEY REACH THE LEVEL OF THE LIGHTED WINDOW!

CHARMING BITS OF GLASS. THEIR SPARKLES SPELL OUR FORTUNES!

WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO OPEN THE WINDOW-- OR THEY'LL SPOT US!

IT'S THE BATMAN!

--AND WE SPELL MISFORTUNE!

THIS IS FOR FRAMING MY PAL!

AND THIS THROWN IN FOR INTEREST!

AS THE BATTLE RAGES-- THE PENGUIN LEVELS HIS DEADLY UMBRELLA!

AMUSE YOURSELF, FOOLS, FOR SOON YOU--

ACID SPRAYS FROM THE STEM OF THE UMBRELLA---

DIE!

DOWN, ROBIN!

IT'S THE BATMAN-- AND MR. PENGUIN!

OUTSIDE --- POLICEMEN, ATTRACTED BY THE LIGHTED WINDOW IN THE CLOSED BUILDING, INVESTIGATE--

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MOMENTARY CONFUSION-- THE PENGUIN MAKES A BREAK FOR FREEDOM---

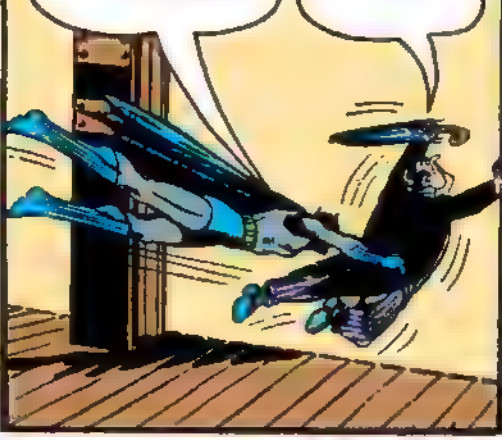
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME, AND I'VE STILL GOT THE JEWELS! HEE! HEE!

RACING TO THE STREET BELOW--
THE PENGUIN CLATTERS UP THE
STAIRS OF THE ELEVATED STATION.



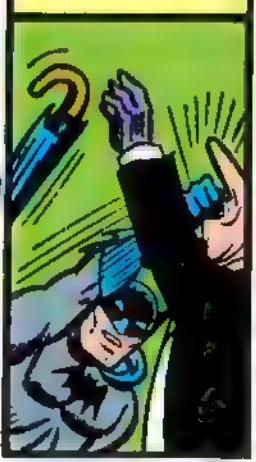
WE'VE
GOT HIM
CORNERED,
BATMAN!

WHAT'S
YOUR HURRY?
THERE'S STILL
SOME
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS?



I'LL
CROSS
THE TRACKS
AND--
...
UGH?

THE PENGUIN DROPS
HIS UMBRELLA
AS THE BATMAN'S
FIST THUNDERS
AGAINST HIS JAW!



GATHERING HIS STRENGTH IN ONE LAST EFFORT,
THE PENGUIN WRESTLES BATMAN TO THE TRACKS--AS A
TRAIN ROARS INTO THE STATION---



BATMAN!
LOOK OUT!
A TRAIN'S
COMING!

AS THE METAL MONSTER ROARS DOWN UPON THE WRESTLING
COMBATANTS-- AN UPTOWN EXPRESS THUNDERS TOWARDS
THEM FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION---

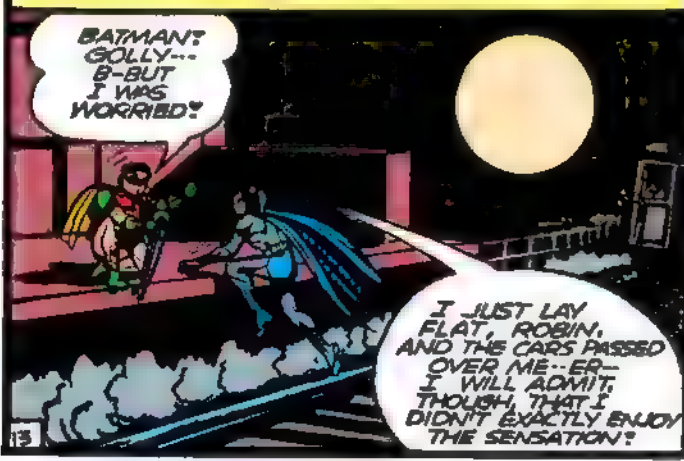
TEARING HIMSELF LOOSE FROM
THE BATMAN'S GRIP--THE PENGUIN
LEAPS FOR THE PASSING EXPRESS TRAIN--



NOBODY
CAN CATCH
THE
PENGUIN!
HEE-
HEE!

--AND THE OTHER STRING OF
CARS PASS OVER THE BATMAN'S BODY!

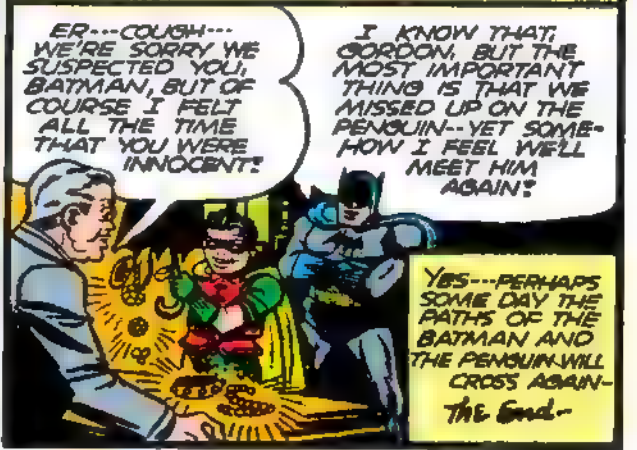
AS THE LOCAL PULLS OUT OF THE STATION--



BATMAN?
GOLLY--
B-BUT
I WAS
WORRIED!

I JUST LAY
FLAT, ROBIN,
AND THE CARS PASSED
OVER ME--ER--
I WILL ADMIT,
THOUGH, THAT I
DIDN'T EXACTLY ENJOY
THE SENSATION!

LATER, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE--



ER---COUGH---
WE'RE SORRY WE
SUSPECTED YOU,
BATMAN, BUT OF
COURSE I FELT
ALL THE TIME
THAT YOU WERE
INNOCENT!

I KNOW THAT,
GORDON, BUT THE
MOST IMPORTANT
THING IS THAT WE
MISSED UP ON THE
PENGUIN--YET SOME-
HOW I FEEL WE'LL
MEET HIM
AGAIN!

YES---PERHAPS
SOME DAY THE
PATHS OF THE
BATMAN AND
THE PENGUIN WILL
CROSS AGAIN--
THE END--

No. 8

BATMAN

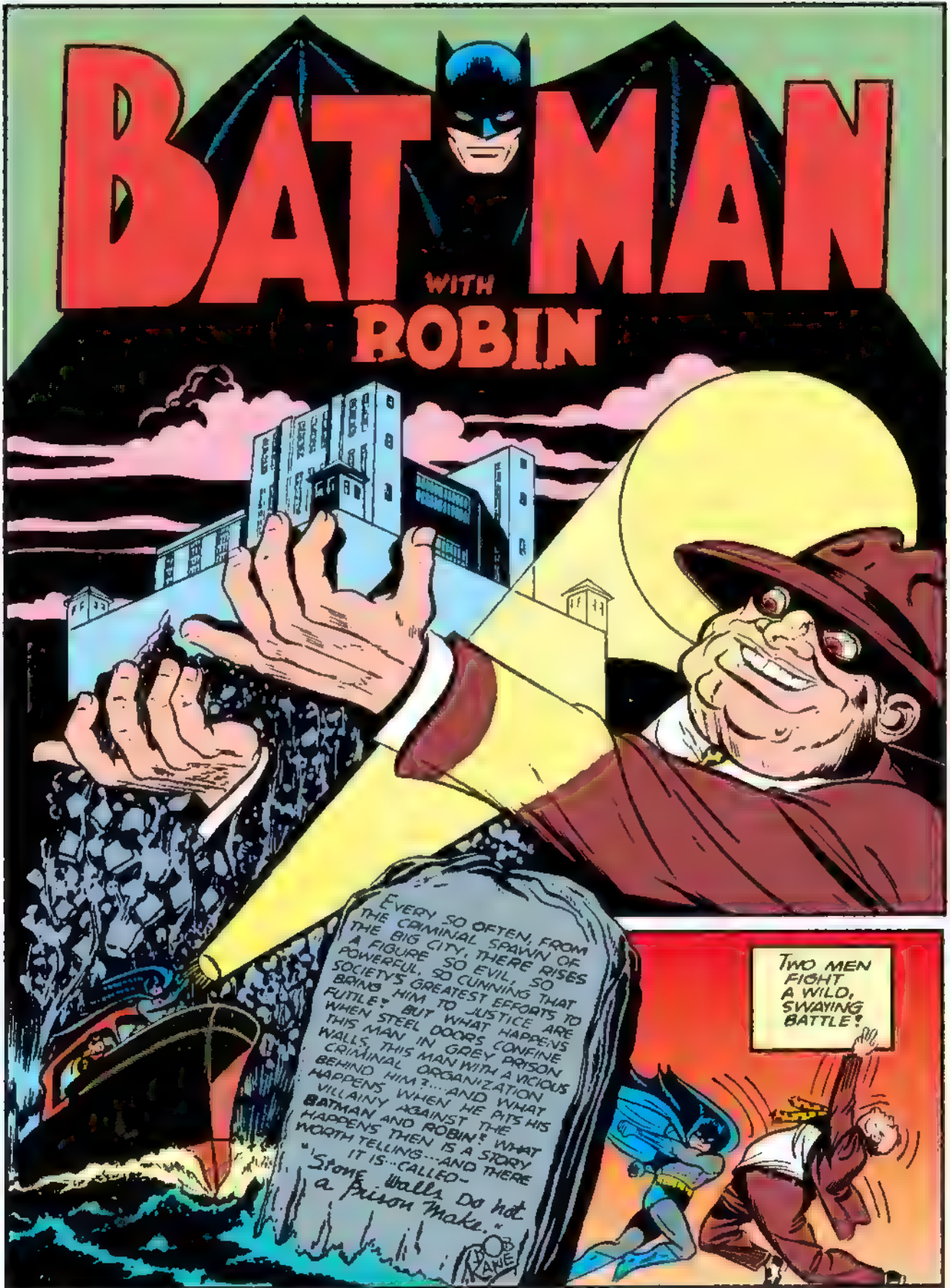
DEC.
JAN.

50¢ U. S. POST OFF.

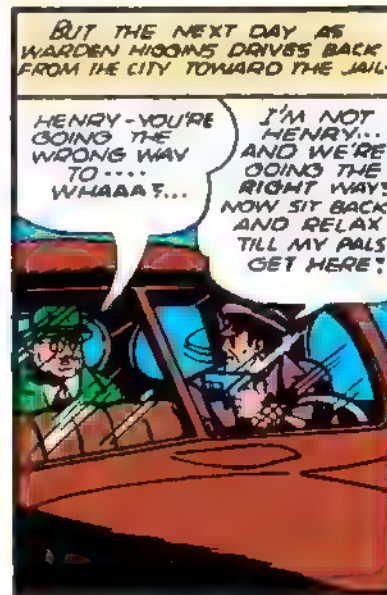
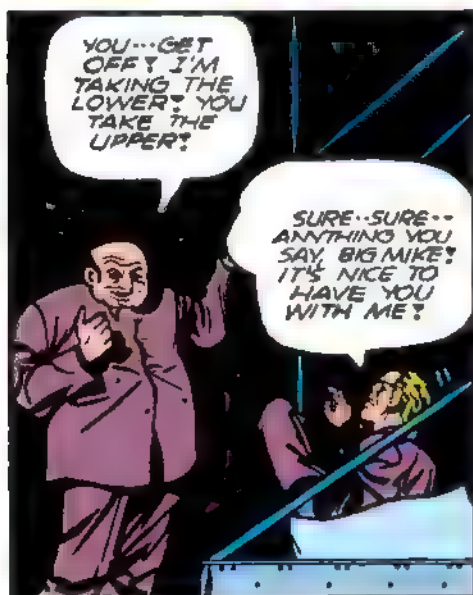
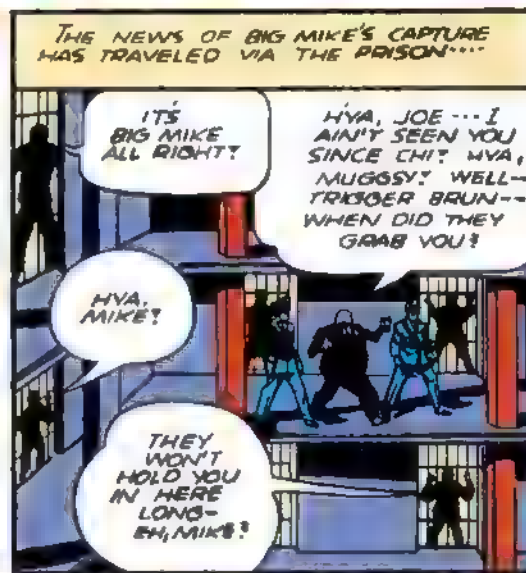
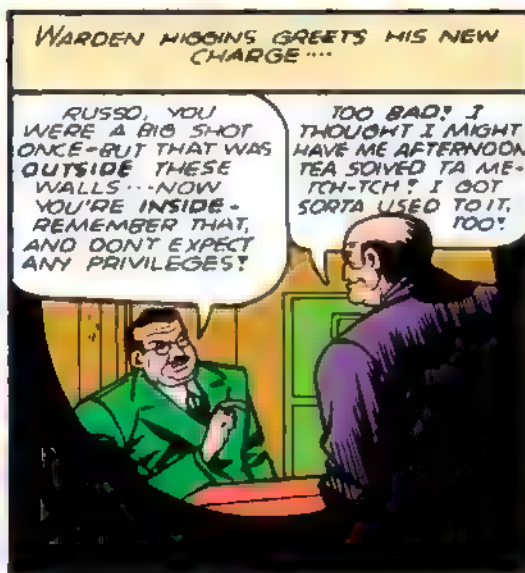
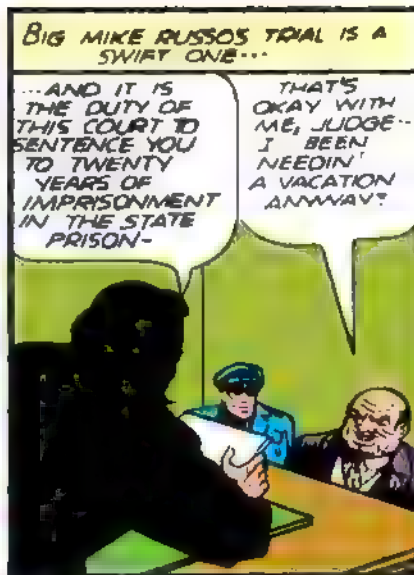


BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN



TWO MEN
FIGHT
A WILD,
SWAYING
BATTLE!



SOMETIME LATER--IN A HIDDEN ROOM--



YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

MAYBE--THAT'S RIGHT, MAC. THAT EYEBROW GOES UP A LITTLE THERE--YEAH--NOW YOU'VE GOT IT!

MOMENTS AFTER--TWO WARDEN HIGGINS STAND IN THE ROOM?



A CLEVER MAKEUP JOB--BUT YOU'LL NEVER FOOL ANYBODY--WHAT ABOUT VOICE AND GESTURES?

WE'RE TAKING CARE OF THAT, TOO. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEANT

THE LIGHTS WINK OUT AND--

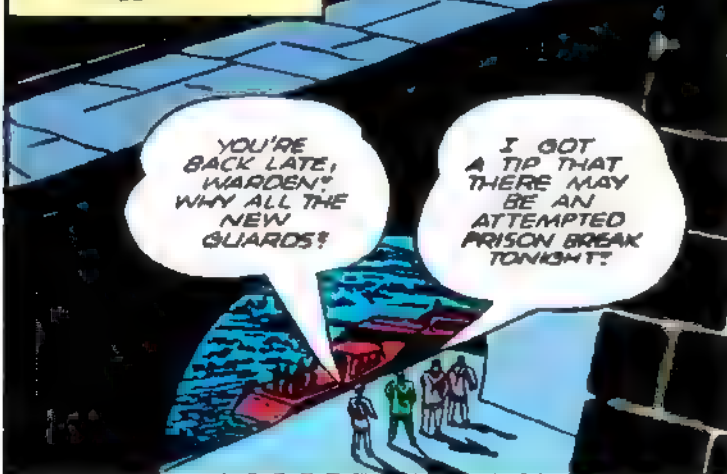
I DO NOT BELIEVE IN CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR MEN WHO--

-- WE ALSO HAVE RADIO TALKS? GOOD THING YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT MAN! WE'VE ENOUGH MATERIAL TO HAVE OUR MAN COPY YOUR GESTURES AND MANNER OF SPEAKING. CLEVER, HUH?

A NEWS-REEL OF ME?



LATER THAT EVENING--TWO BOATS PULL UP BEFORE THE ISLAND PRISON--



YOU'RE BACK LATE, WARDEN? WHY ALL THE NEW GUARDS?

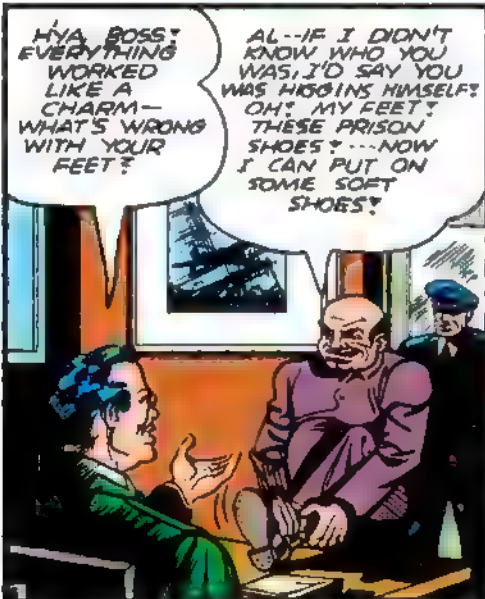
I GOT A TIP THAT THERE MAY BE AN ATTEMPTED PRISON BREAK TONIGHT!

BUT ONCE INSIDE THE PRISON WALLS, THE NEW GUARDS MOVE FAST, AND THIS SCENE IS DUPLICATED MANY TIMES IN THE DEATH HOUSE WING--



GET 'EM UP?

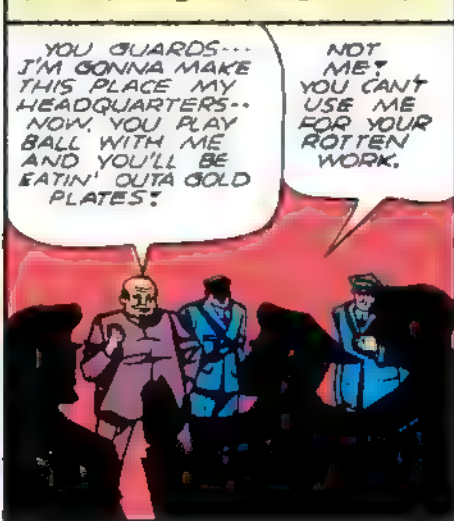
HUH?



MYA BOSS? EVERYTHING WORKED LIKE A CHARM--WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FEET?

AL--IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WAS, I'D SAY YOU WAS HIGGINS HIMSELF! OH! MY FEET! THESE PRISON SHOES?--NOW I CAN PUT ON SOME SOFT SHOES!

THE PRISON GUARDS ARE STRIPPED OF THEIR GUNS AND HERDED FORWARD INTO THE PRISON YARD--



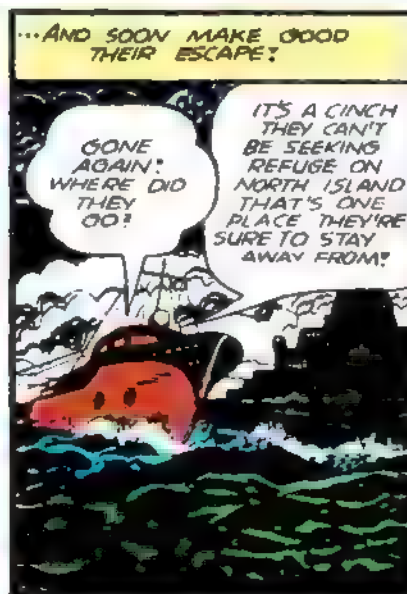
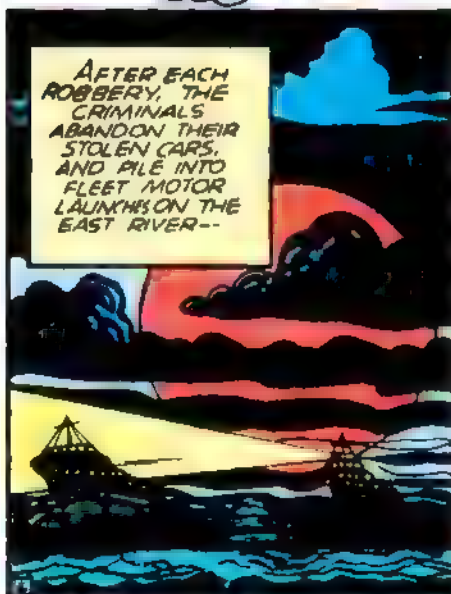
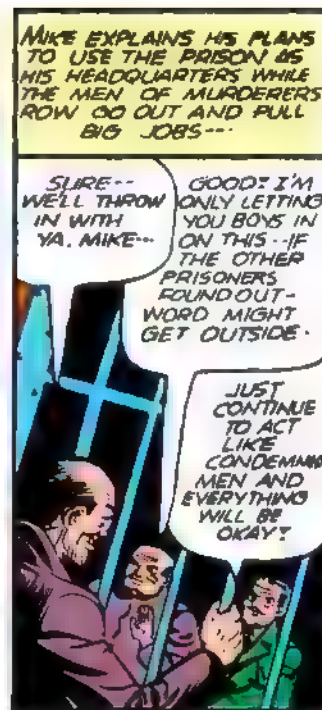
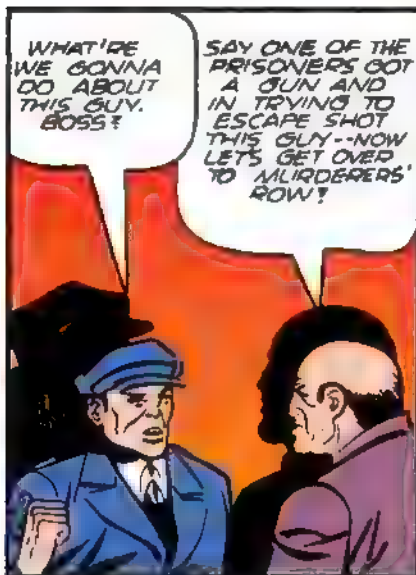
YOU GUARDS--I'M GONNA MAKE THIS PLACE MY HEADQUARTERS--NOW, YOU PLAY BALL WITH ME AND YOU'LL BE EATIN' OUTA GOLD PLATES!

NOT ME? YOU CAN'T USE ME FOR YOUR ROTTEN WORK.

A SHOT CRASHES THROUGH THE SILENT NIGHT--



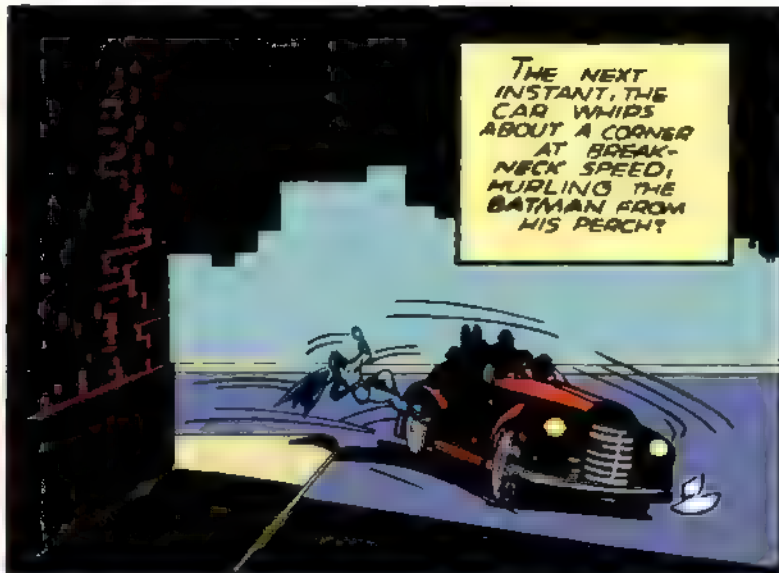
THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OTHER QUITTERS! NOW-- YOU WANNA THROW IN WITH ME--? THINK IT OVER!



IN THE TUSSE, A HANDKERCHIEF FALLS AND THE BATMAN CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF THE MAN'S FACE---



THE NEXT INSTANT, THE CAR WHIPS ABOUT A CORNER AT BREAK-NECK SPEED, HURLING THE BATMAN FROM HIS PERCH?



SOMETHING'S WRONG? THAT GUNMAN IS TRIGGER SHERMAN-- SUPPOSED TO BE ON NORTH ISLAND PRISON-- WAITING FOR EXECUTION--



THE BATMAN VISITS COMMISSIONER GORDON--

--AND TRIGGER SHERMAN IS IN THE SAME PRISON THAT BIG MIKE RUSSO IS IN, AND THOSE ROBBERIES LATELY ALL BEAR THE STAMP OF WILY MIKE?

RUSSO BEHIND ALL THIS? IMPOSSIBLE? TO PROVE YOU'RE WRONG, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PRISON MYSELF--



AND SO--LATER THAT DAY--

THE PRISON SEEMS TO BE IN ORDER, WARDEN?

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE I SENT THEM HERE?

BATMAN-- YOU DON'T SEEM VERY POPULAR?

THE BATMAN BOO?

BOO? BATMAN?



BATMAN-- HERE'S TRIGGER SHERMAN?

HELLO, TRIGGER! HOW ARE THEY TREATING YOU?

JUST DANDY! YOU GOTTA EXCUSE ME NOW --I GOTTA PUT ON ME TUXEDO SO'S I CAN GO TO THE POLICEMEN'S BALL.



BIG MIKE RUSSO RECEIVES THE VISITORS

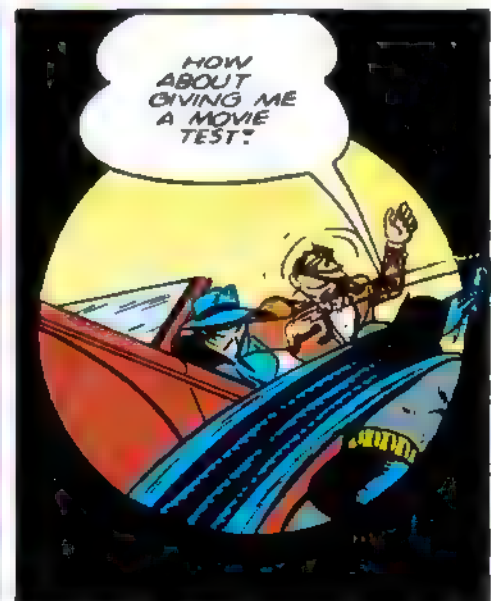
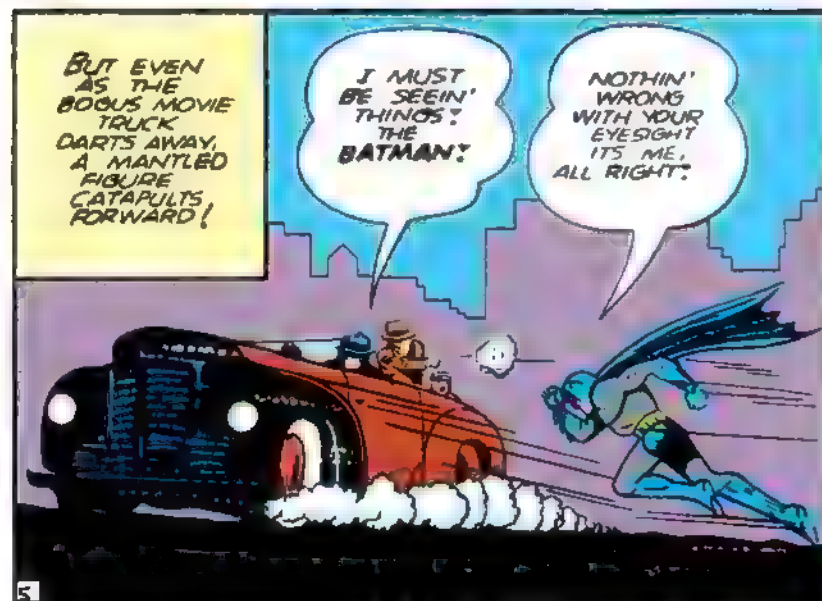
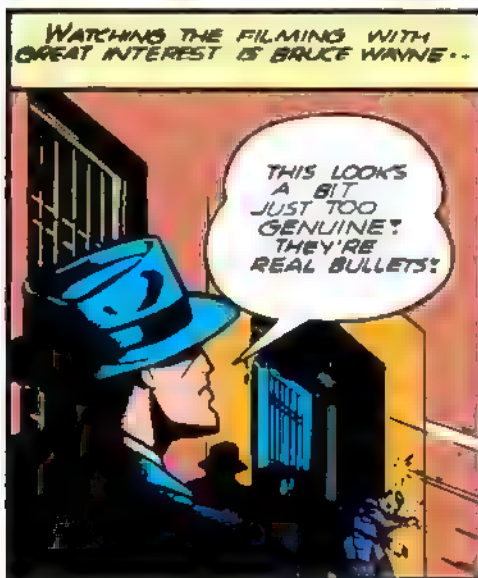
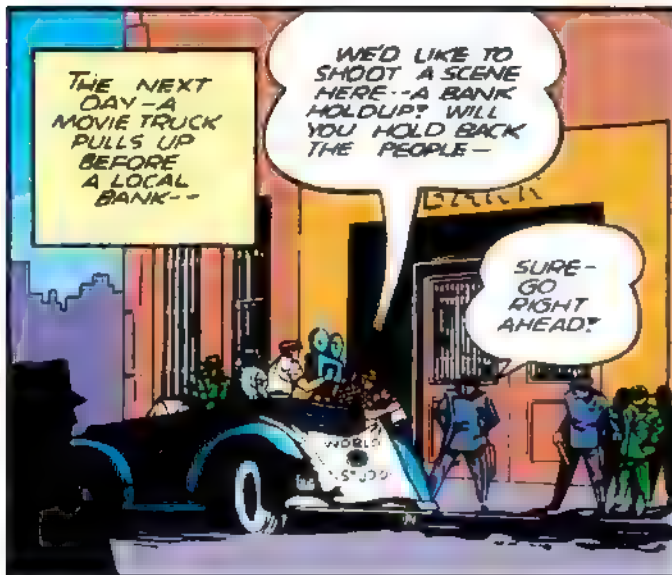
WELL-- THE BATMAN AND COMMISSIONER GORDON? THIS IS AN HONOR.

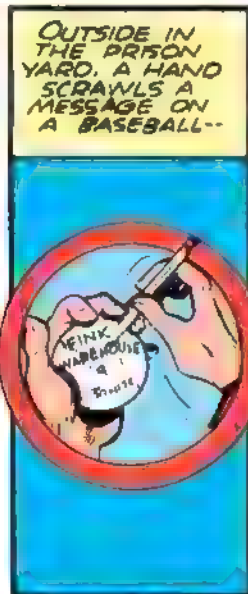
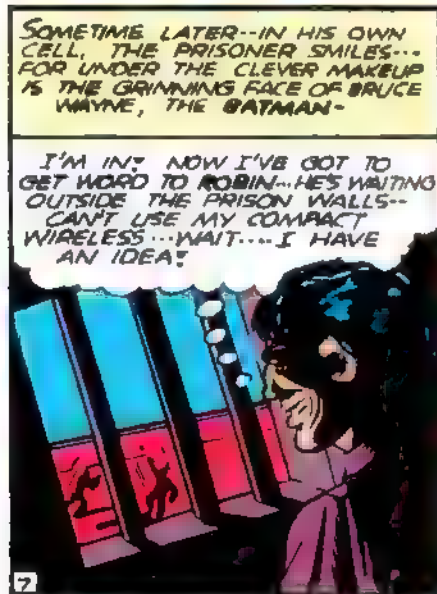
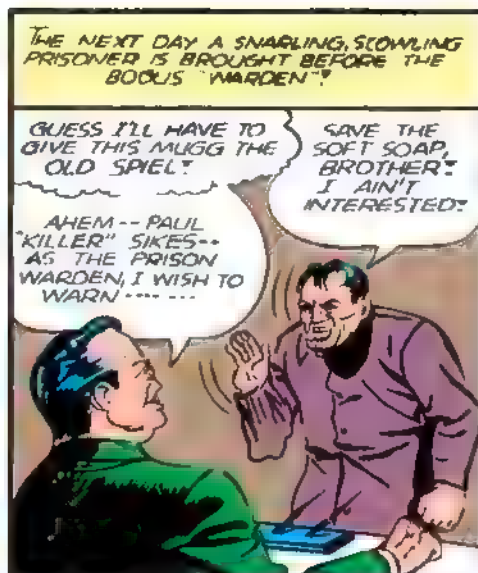
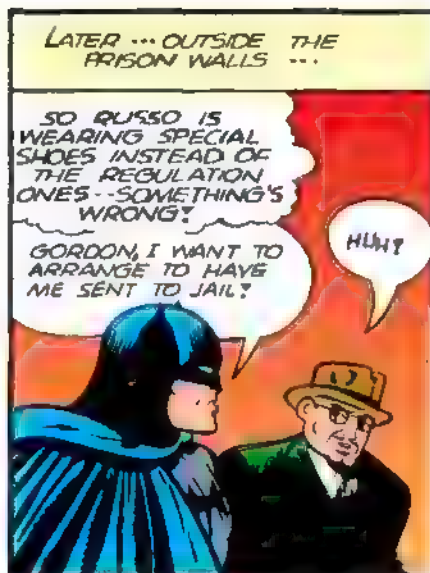
TOO BAD I CAN'T SAY THE SAME?

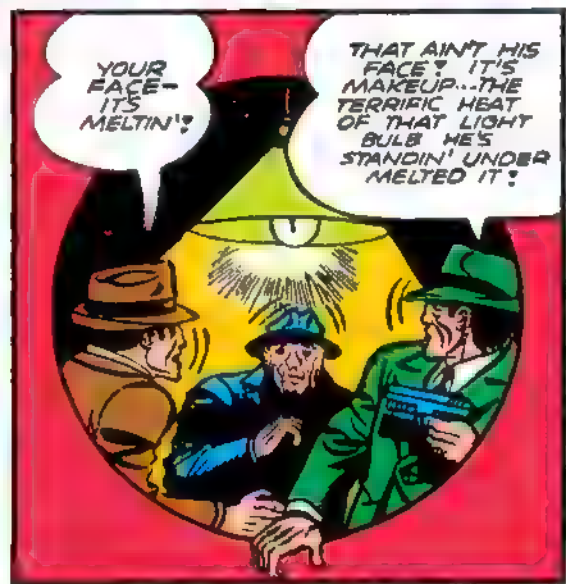
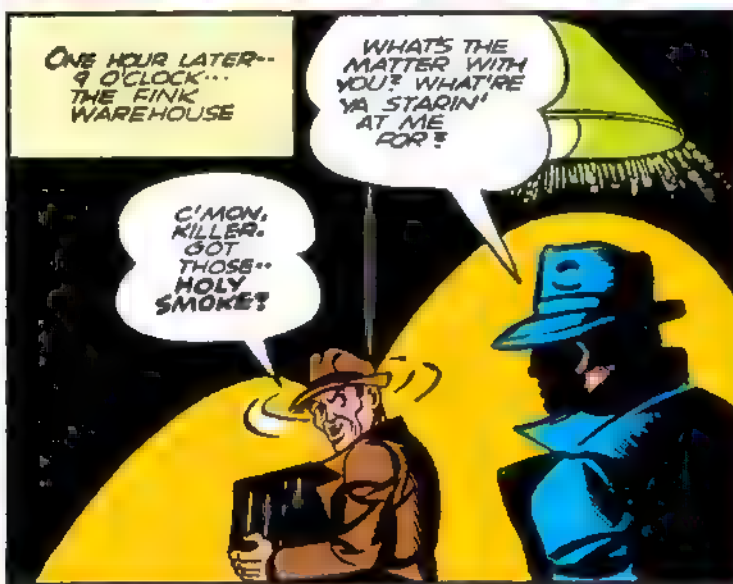
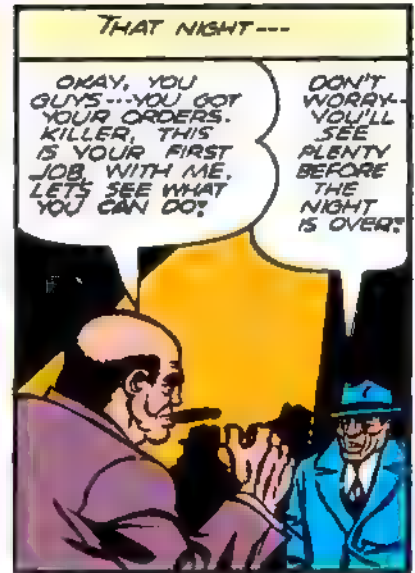
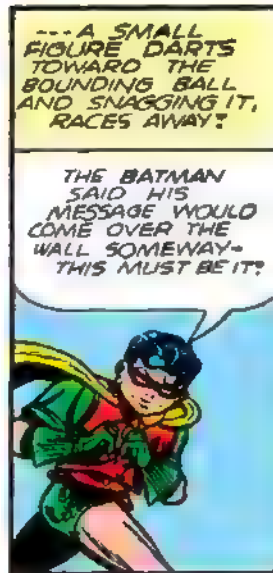
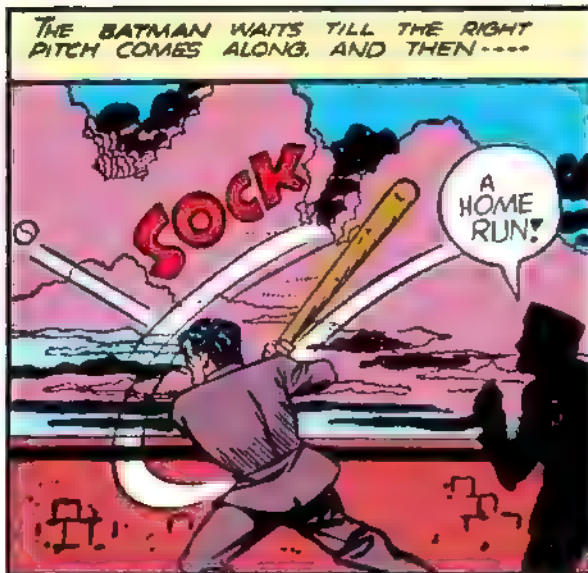


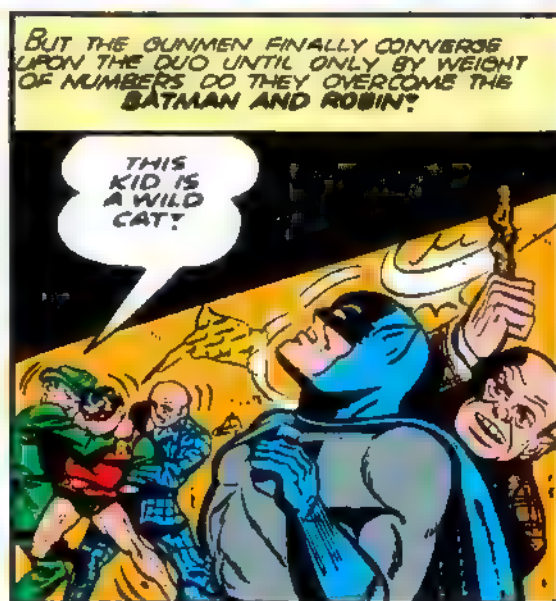
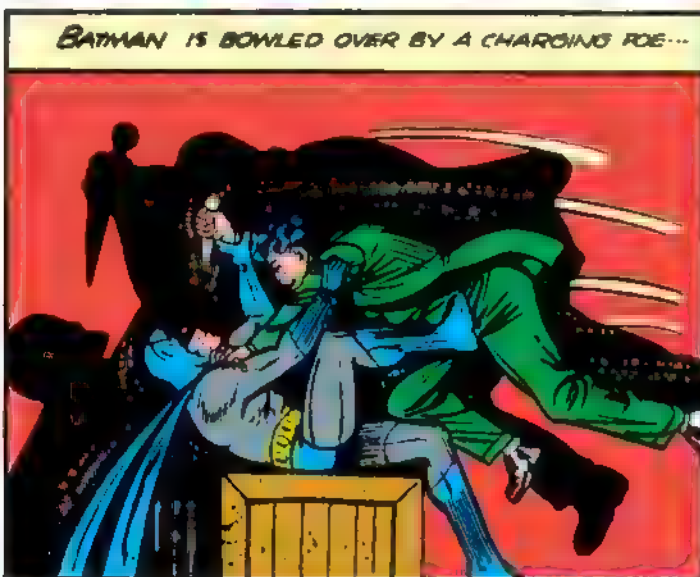
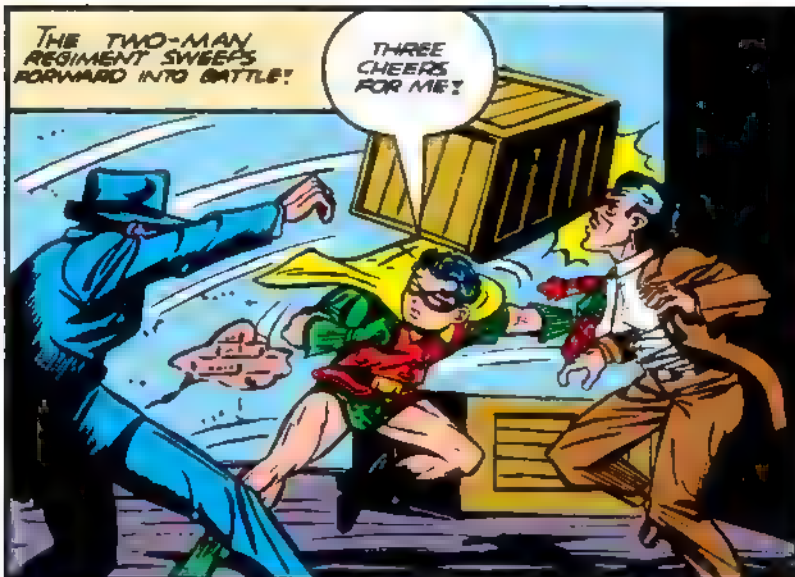
SUDDENLY THE BATMAN RIVETS HIS KEEN EYES ON RUSSO'S FEET---

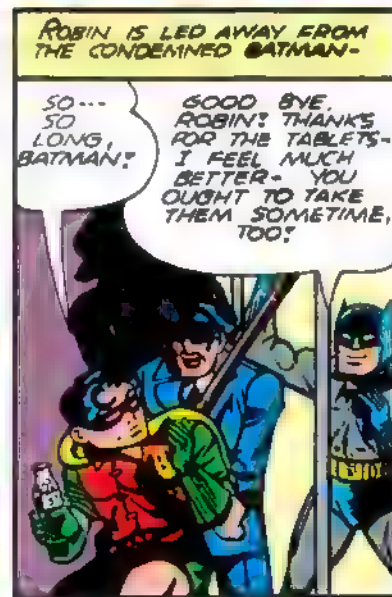
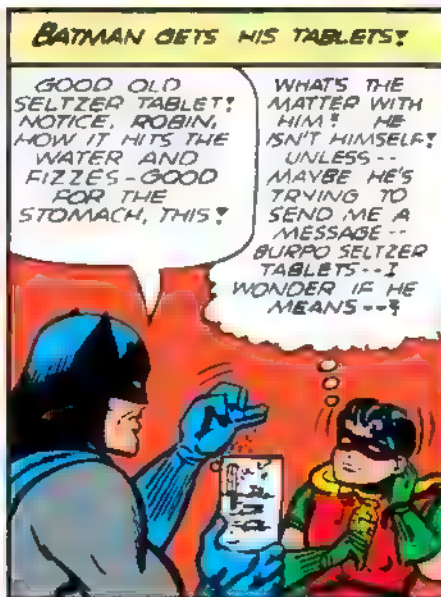
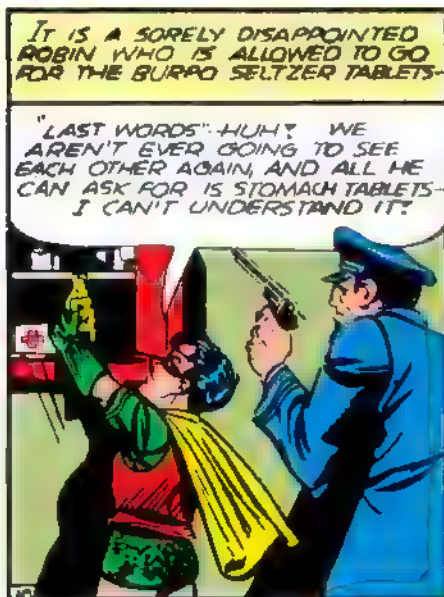
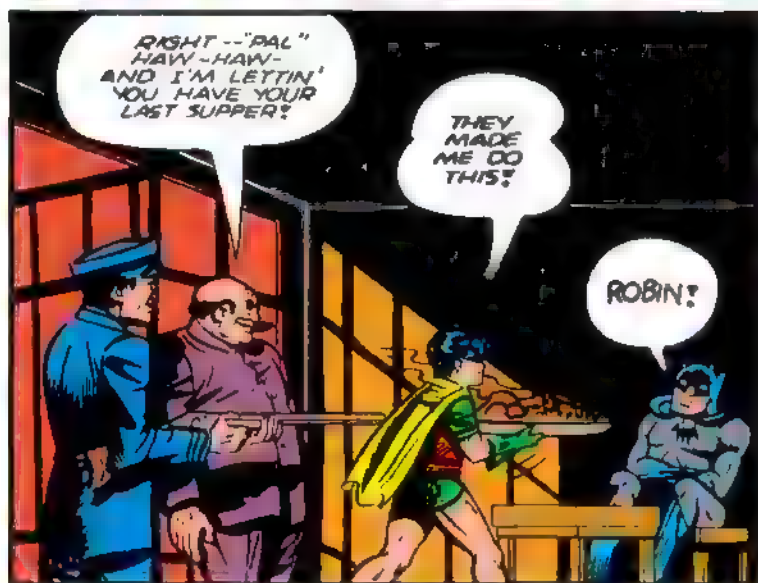
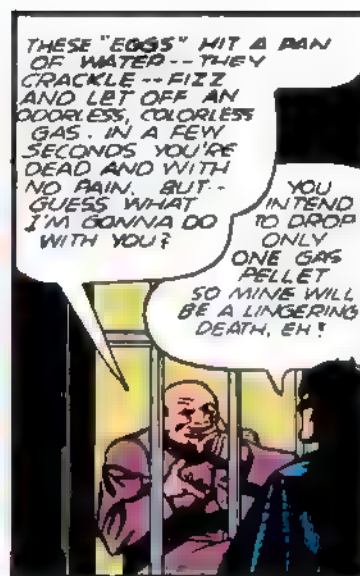
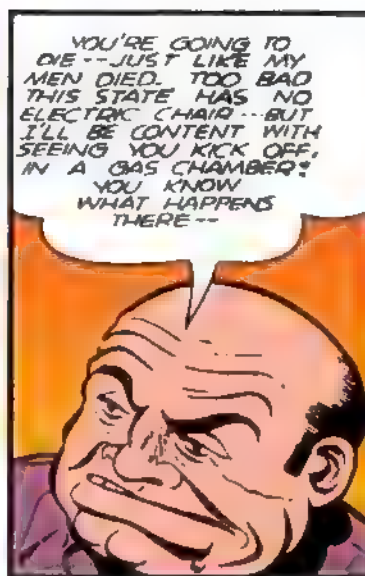
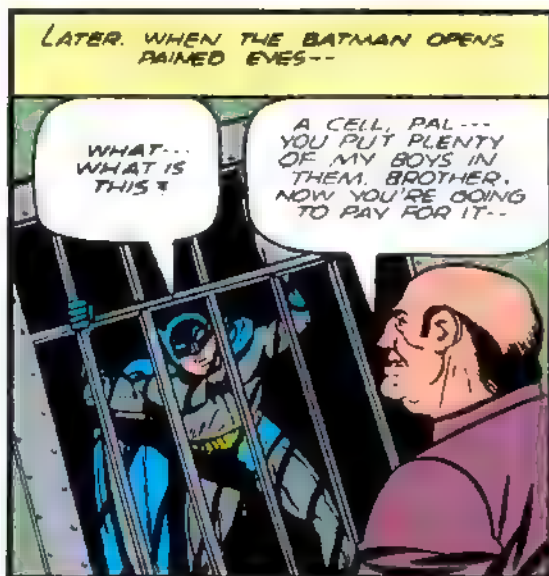












A FLOOR BELOW, A STEEL DOOR CLOSES- ROBIN HAS BEEN PUT IN SOLITARY?

OKAY-- SMART KID- LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THERE?

A BARE STEEL ROOM? ABOVE A TINY VENTILATOR- NO KEYHOLE ON THE DOOR

NOOP CLOP

THERE'S NO WAY OUT...NO KEYHOLE--NOTHING BUT STEEL WALLS- WAIT...WHAT'S THAT?... FOOTSTEPS?

FOOTSTEPS? THE BATMAN MARCHING TOWARD HIS DOOM--THE GAS CHAMBER.

GAS CHA

BELOW- ROBIN GROWS FRANTIC? HOW CAN HE ESCAPE FROM AN ESCAPE-PROOF CELL?

BOY TO GET OUT-- IF I COULD ONLY MOVE THAT BOLT OUTSIDE--NEED A MAGNET FOR THAT-- MAGNET--I'VE GOT IT-- MY BELT-- WIRELESS SET-- DYNAMO?

NOTE... A DYNAMO CONSISTS OF A MAGNET WITH WIRE AROUND IT?

GOOD THING DYNAMO MAGNETS ARE THE MOST POWERFUL IN THE WORLD-- NOW--MOVE THE LATCH UP LIKE THIS?

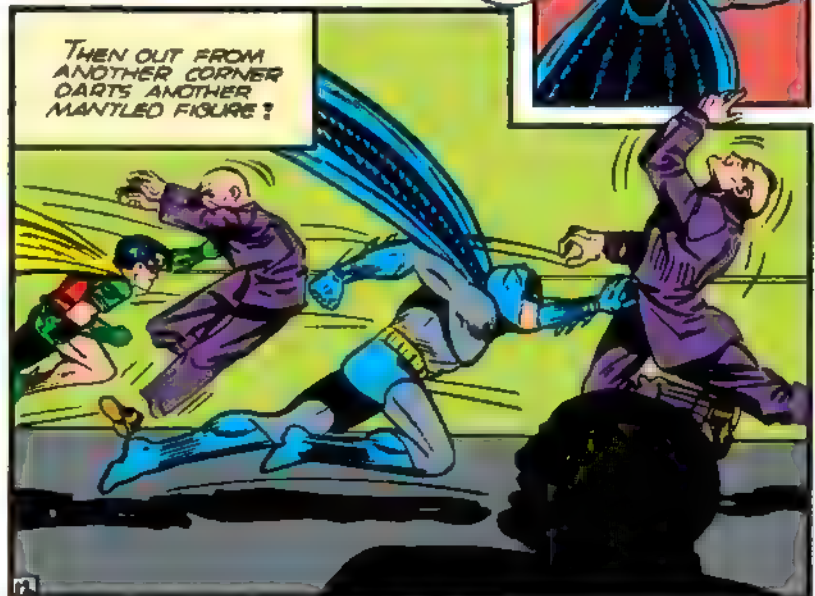
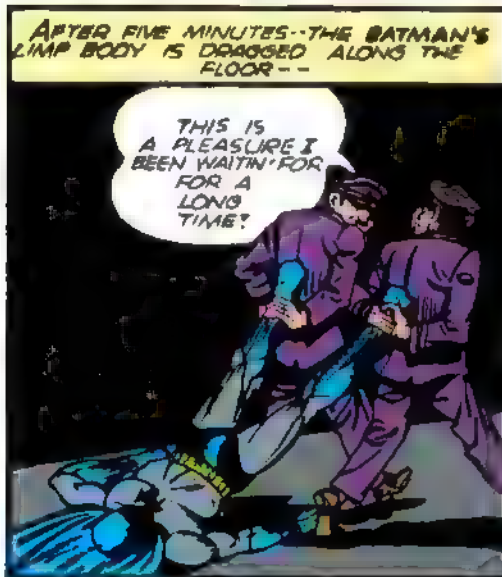
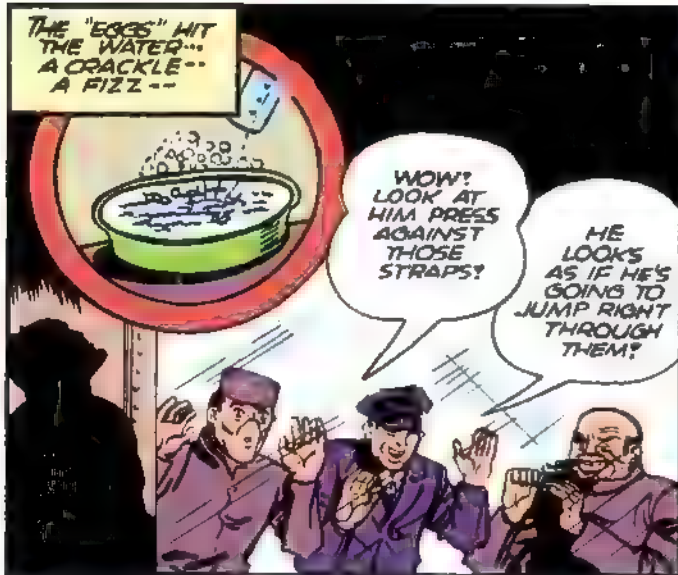
NOTE: LATCH LOCKED OPEN

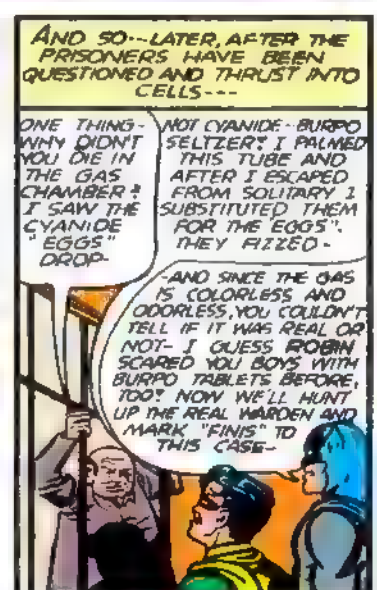
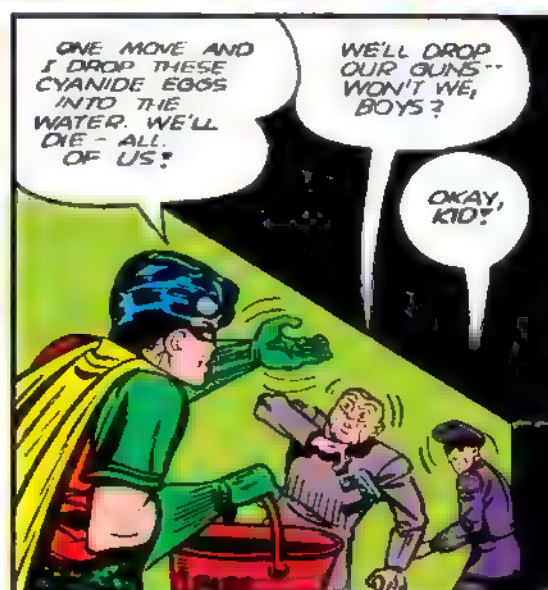
PUT THE CYANIDE EGGS ON THE RELEASE, JOE? WE'RE ALL SET NOW?

THE BATMAN IS BEING STRAPPED IN THE CHAIR-- CAN ROBIN ESCAPE IN TIME TO SAVE THE BATMAN?

MINUTES PASS- CRIMINALS EAGERLY OBSERVE, AS THEIR NEMESIS THE BATMAN IS ABOUT TO DIE?

IT TOOK ME, MIKE RUSSO, TO END THE CAREER OF THE GREAT BATMAN? HA-HA?



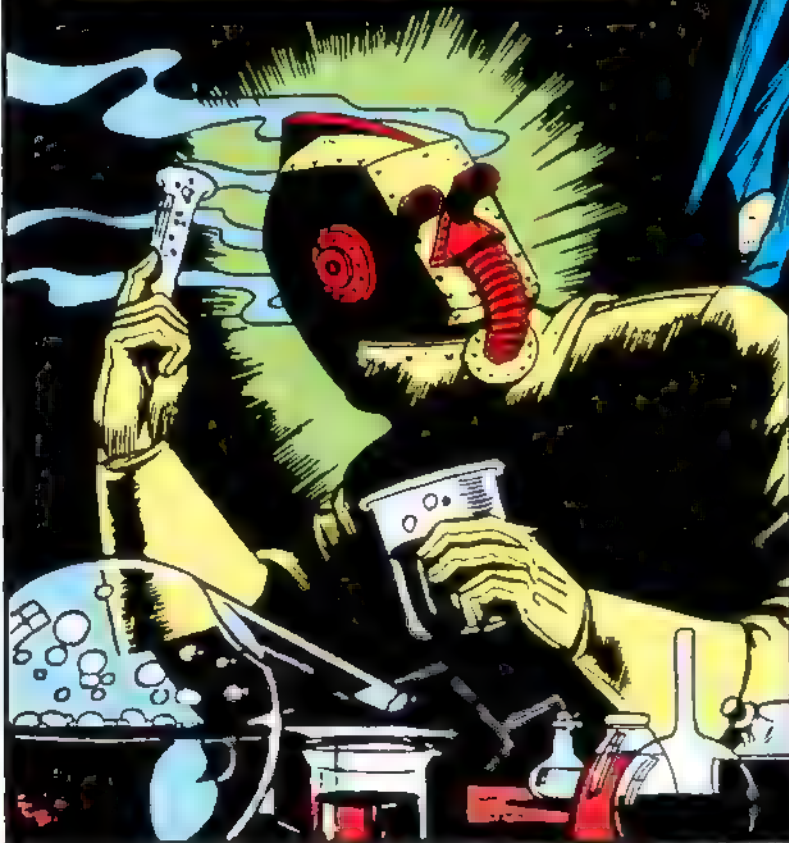
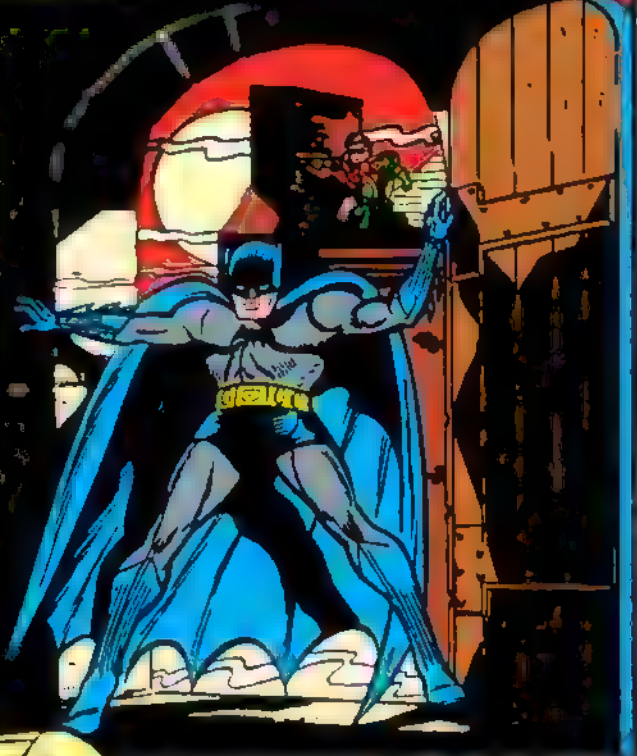


BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

BATMAN AND ROBIN, SWORN ENEMIES OF CRIME, MATCH WITS WITH A SINISTER AND CLEVER MASTER OF THE WEAPONS OF SCIENCE? WHO IS THIS INCREDIBLE, EERIE FIGURE GLOWING WITH UNHOLY, FLUORESCENT LIGHT? LET US CALL HIM BY THAT DREAD NAME WHICH IS TO BECOME SO TERRIBLY FAMILIAR TO ALL --- **Professor Radium?**

CAN THE DYNAMIC DUO COPE WITH THE STRANGE WEAPONS OF THE WORLD OF SCIENCE? CAN THEY DEFEAT A MAN WHO MUST KILL SO THAT HE MAY LIVE? HERE IS THE ANSWER IN THE MOST AMAZING OF ALL ADVENTURES CALLED -- *"The Strange Case of Professor Radium!"*



A STRANGE REQUEST IS MADE
AT THE CITY DOG POUND--

THE PERMIT
SEEMS ALL
RIGHT. WE
CAN DELIVER
THE DOGS
TO YOUR
LABORATORY
TONIGHT?

GAS CHAMBER
CITY DOG POUND

EXCELLENT!
I WANT THEM
AS THEY ARE
NOW--DEAD!



THAT NIGHT--IN A HOSPITAL LABORATORY, THE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR ROSS, LABORS TO SOLVE MAN'S GREATEST RIDDLE--

WILL MY RADIUM SERUM REPAIR DEAD TISSUE AND MAKE MAN LIVE FOREVER? I SHALL EITHER FIND THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY SINCE TIME BEGAN--OR FAILURE?

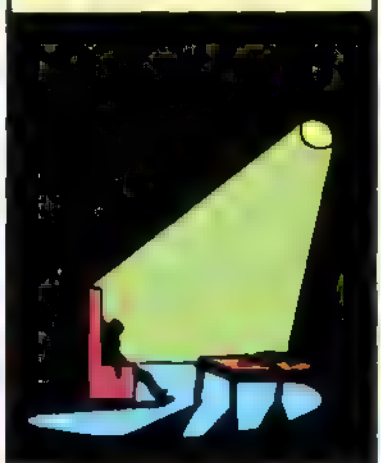


BUT THE SERUM-INJECTED DOGS SHOW NO SIGN OF MOVEMENT--

I'VE FAILED! ALL THESE MONTHS OF WORK-- BUT WAIT-- PERHAPS IT'S TOO SOON-- PERHAPS IT NEEDS MORE TIME!



MINUTES DRAG INTO HOURS, AND AS THE BLEARY-EYED SCIENTIST WAITS AND WATCHES, SLEEP FINALLY CONQUERS HIS EXHAUSTED BODY--

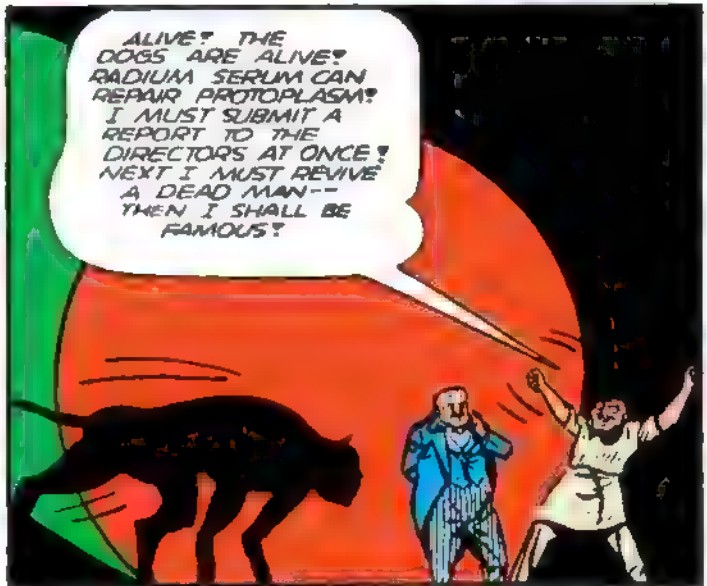


A HAND SHAKES HIM--

HEY--WAKE UP! YOU MUST HAVE SLEPT IN THAT CHAIR ALL NIGHT? AND SAY, WHAT ARE YOU STARTING AROUND HERE-- A DOG KENNEL? HA-HA?



ALIVE? THE DOGS ARE ALIVE? RADIUM SERUM CAN REPAIR PROTOPLASM? I MUST SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS AT ONCE! NEXT I MUST REVIVE A DEAD MAN-- THEN I SHALL BE FAMOUS!



LATER THAT DAY, IN THE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE--

THEY LOOK LIKE THE DOGS WE DELIVERED TO THE PROFESSOR, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE?

THESE X-RAYS SHOW NO TRACE OF RADIUM IN THE DOGS? ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL A HOAX ON ME, PROFESSOR?



OF COURSE NOT! I'LL BRING ANOTHER DOG TO LIFE AND PROVE MY CLAIM IS TRUE?

A LIVE DOG COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR A DEAD ONE, YOU KNOW? YOUR LIFE-RENEWING CLAIM SEEMS ABSURD? PERHAPS YOU HAVE APPROPRIATED THE RADIUM FOR YOUR OWN PRIVATE USE.

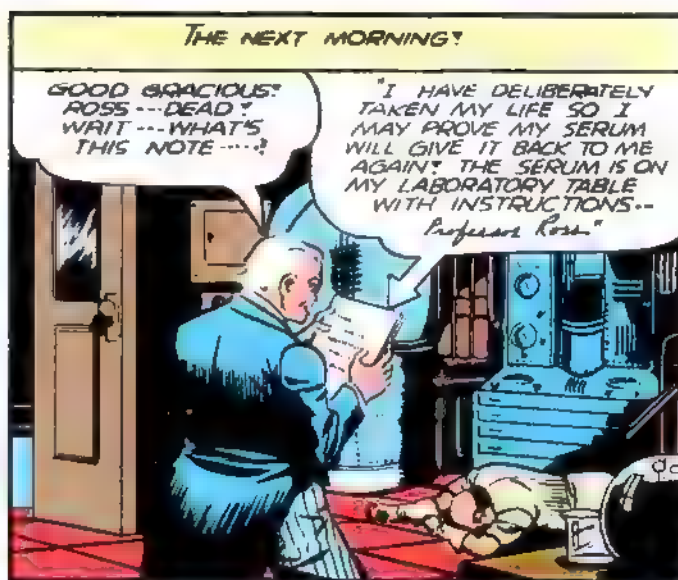


FOR YOUR EXCELLENT WORK IN THE PAST, WE WILL NOT CHARGE YOU WITH THE THEFT OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF RADIUM, BUT SHALL INSTEAD ASK FOR YOUR RESIGNATION! GOOD DAY, PROFESSOR ROSS!





GAH? I'LL SHOW HIM
WHAT A TRUE SCIENTIST
IS!... A MAN WHO IS
WILLING TO EXPERIMENT
ON HIMSELF TO PROVE
TO THE WORLD HE'S
RIGHT?



THE NEXT MORNING?

GOOD GRACIOUS!
ROSS --- DEAD?
WAIT --- WHAT'S
THIS NOTE ----?

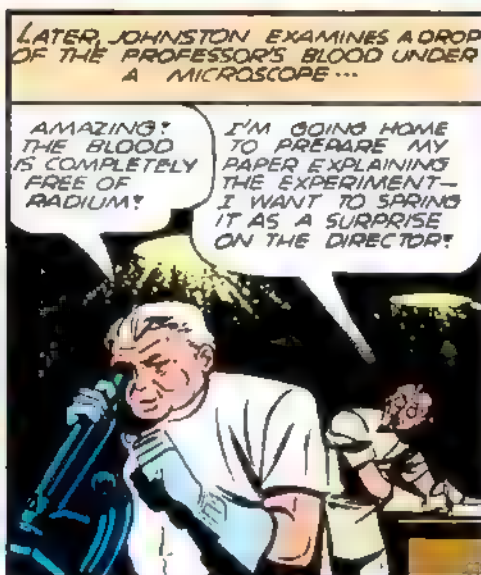
"I HAVE DELIBERATELY
TAKEN MY LIFE SO I
MAY PROVE MY SERUM
WILL GIVE IT BACK TO ME
AGAIN! THE SERUM IS ON
MY LABORATORY TABLE
WITH INSTRUCTIONS--
Professor Ross."



WITH FEVERISH HASTE, JOHNSTON
INJECTS THE SERUM INTO THE BRAVE
PROFESSOR...AND WAITS UNTIL...

HE...HE'S
MOVING?
IT'S INCREDIBLE--
BUT HE'S
ALIVE?

OH!!!



LATER, JOHNSTON EXAMINES A DROP
OF THE PROFESSOR'S BLOOD UNDER
A MICROSCOPE...

AMAZING!
THE BLOOD
IS COMPLETELY
FREE OF
RADIUM?

I'M GOING HOME
TO PREPARE MY
PAPER EXPLAINING
THE EXPERIMENT--
I WANT TO SPRING
IT AS A SURPRISE
ON THE DIRECTOR!

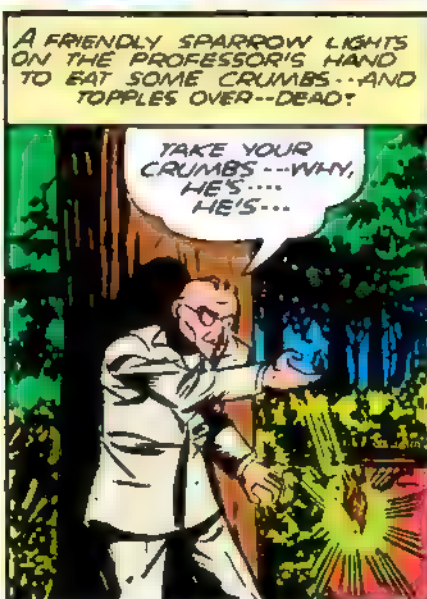


AFTER WORKING MANY
TEDIOUS HOURS, THE
PROFESSOR RELAXES
A FEW MOMENTS IN
HIS GARDEN--

MMMM?

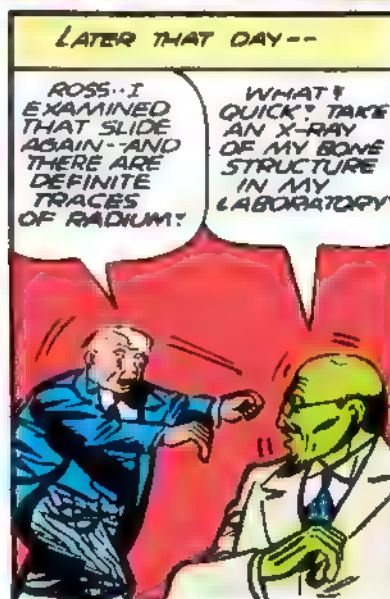


SURPRISINGLY, THE FLOWER
WITHERS IN HIS HAND?



A FRIENDLY SPARROW LIGHTS
ON THE PROFESSOR'S HAND
TO EAT SOME CRUMBS--AND
TOPPLES OVER--DEAD?

TAKE YOUR
CRUMBS --- WHY,
HE'S ---
HE'S ---

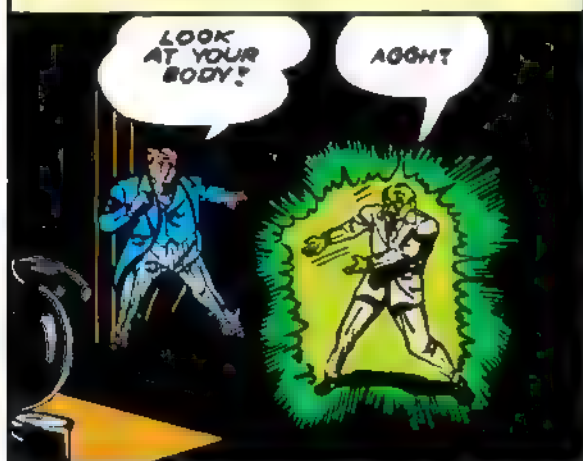


LATER THAT DAY--

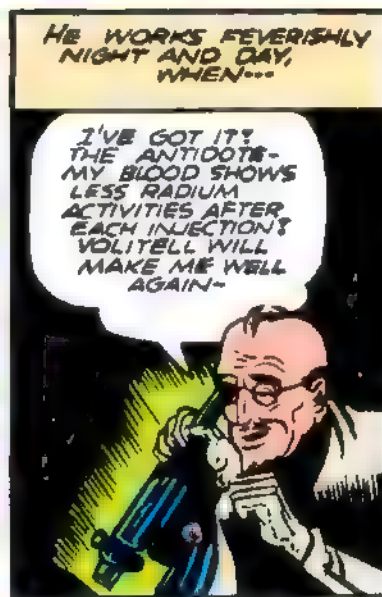
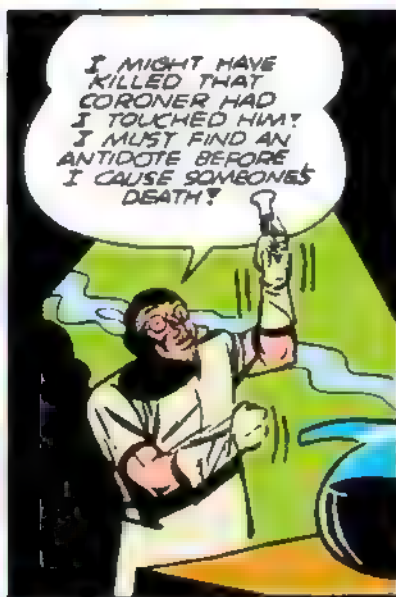
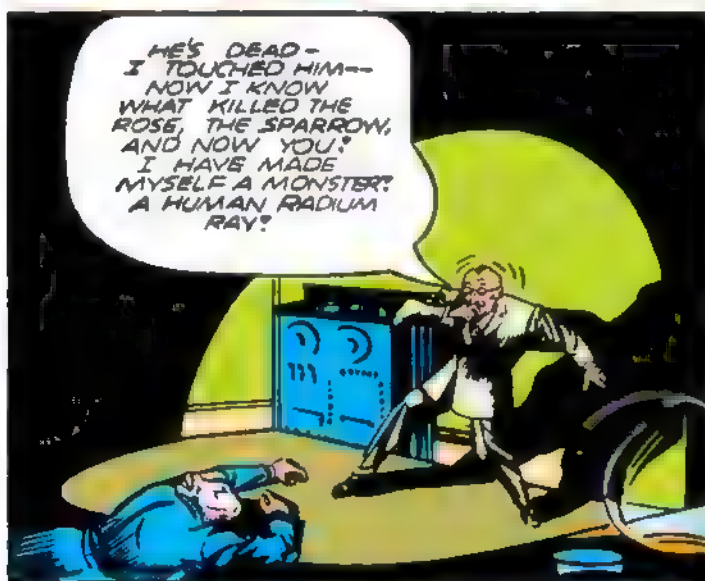
ROSS..I
EXAMINED
THAT SLIDE
AGAIN--AND
THERE ARE
DEFINITE
TRACES
OF RADIUM?

WHAT?
QUICK? TAKE
AN X-RAY
OF MY BONE
STRUCTURE
IN MY
LABORATORY?

ONCE IN A DARK LABORATORY JOHNSTON
SUDDENLY GASPS-- THE PROFESSOR'S
BODY GLOWS EERILY WITH A GREEN
RADIANT LIGHT.



WHEN THE LIGHT IS FINALLY
SWITCHED ON--



BUT ALL DOESN'T GO WELL--HE FINDS THAT VOLITELL WEARS OFF AFTER TWENTY-FOUR HOURS--

IT'S HORRIBLE---
I'VE CHANGED BACK
TO RADIUM AGAIN!--
I'VE NO MORE
VOLITELL SERUM TO
MAKE ME NORMAL--
I MUST GET
VOLITELL--
BUT FIRST, I'VE
GOT TO MAKE
SURE NO ONE
ELSE WILL
DIE--

HE FASHIONS A
SUIT WOVEN
FROM A
RUBBEROID-LEAD
COMPOSITION--
A GARB THROUGH
WHICH THE
DEADLY RADIUM
RAYS WILL
NOT PASS--

IT LOOKS
BIZARRE,
BUT WILL
PROTECT ANYBODY
WHO MIGHT
CONTACT MY
RADIUM-CHARGED
BODY--NOW I
CAN GO AFTER
THE VOLITELL!

VOLITELL IS AN EXPENSIVE
DRUG, AND HE HAS USED HIS
FUNDS ON HIS EXPERIMENTS--
THAT NIGHT, HE FURTIVELY
ENTERS A HOSPITAL'S SUPPLY
ROOM--

ONLY TWO
OUNCES? I'LL
NEED A MUCH
GREATER
QUANTITY?

AS THE DESPERATE SCIENTIST
STEALS MORE AND MORE VOLITELL,
NEWSPAPERS TELL AN AMAZING
STORY---

DARING HOSPITAL
ROBBERIES-VOLITELL
STOLE

VOLITELL
VALUABLE
DRUG SUPPLY
STOLEN BY
A FANTASTIC
FIGURE IN A
SUIT OF IRON
MANTIS

I MUST
HAVE
MORE
VOLITELL!

AND IN HIS HOME, BRUCE
WAYNE SPEAKS TO HIS
YOUNG WARD, DICK
GRAYSON--

WONDER
WHO IS
BEHIND
THIS
VOLITELL
BUSINESS?

ONLY A
SCIENTIST WOULD
HAVE ANY
KNOWLEDGE OF
VOLITELL? I
HAVE A HUNCH
THAT MAYBE
OUR MYSTERY
MAN WILL
SHOW UP AT
GOTHAM
HOSPITAL
TONIGHT.

NIGHT--TWO CAPED FIGURES SWING THROUGH EMPTY SPACE--

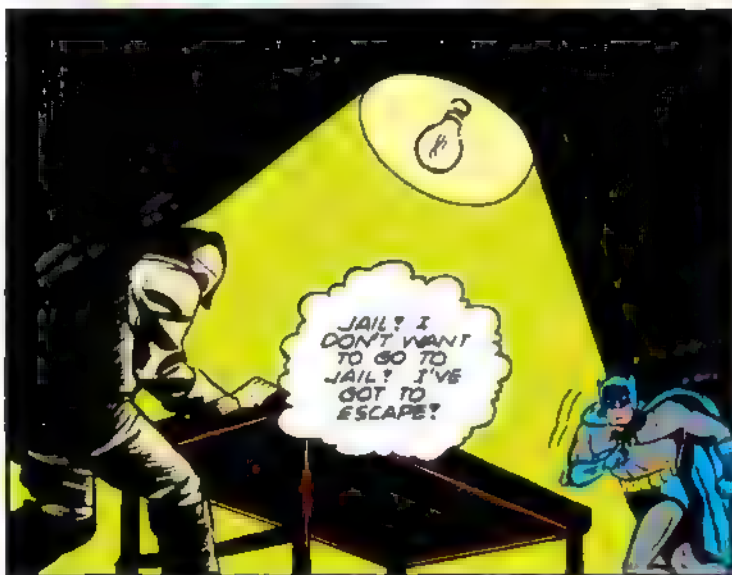
THIS IS ONE
WAY TO GET
TO THE HOSPITAL
UNSEEN?

ONE WAY
IS AS GOOD
AS ANOTHER?

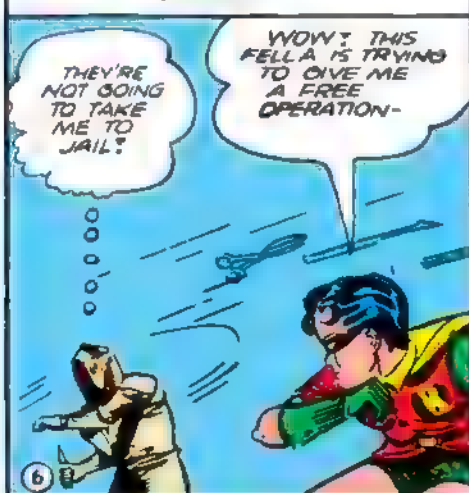
THE PROFESSOR HAS REMAINED
HIDDEN INSIDE THE HOSPITAL
ALL DAY LONG--

I CAN SLIP PAST
THOSE GUARDS
EASILY ENOUGH AND
GET INTO THE
SUPPLY ROOM?

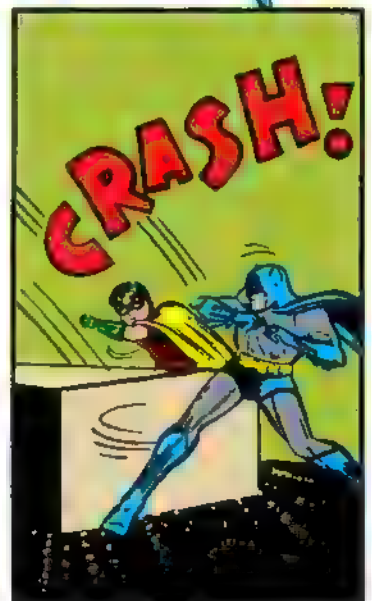
BUT AS THE PROFESSOR REACHES FOR THE VOLITELL--TWO MANTLED FURIES STORM INTO THE ROOM--



THE FEAR-MADDENED PROFESSOR HURLS RAZOR-EDGED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AT THE CHARGING ROBIN...



AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CHARGE ANEW, THE PROFESSOR PUSHES AN INSTRUMENT CLOSET OVER THEM--



AS GUARDS RUSH IN, THE SCIENTIST CLIMBS THRU THE WINDOW AND DESCENDS THE WATER PIPE...

C'MON, ROBIN... OUR LITTLE BIRD IS TRYING TO FLEE THE COOP!

FROM THE EXPOSED GLOWING HAND EMANATES DEADLY RADIUM RAYS THAT EAT AWAY THE PIPE, AND...

I'M... I'M... SLIPPING!

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME BEING A HUMAN RADIUM RAY HELPED ME!

MEANWHILE, THE PROFESSOR SLIPS IN THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW ON THE FLOOR BELOW.

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS... BUT I HAVE TO...

I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM...

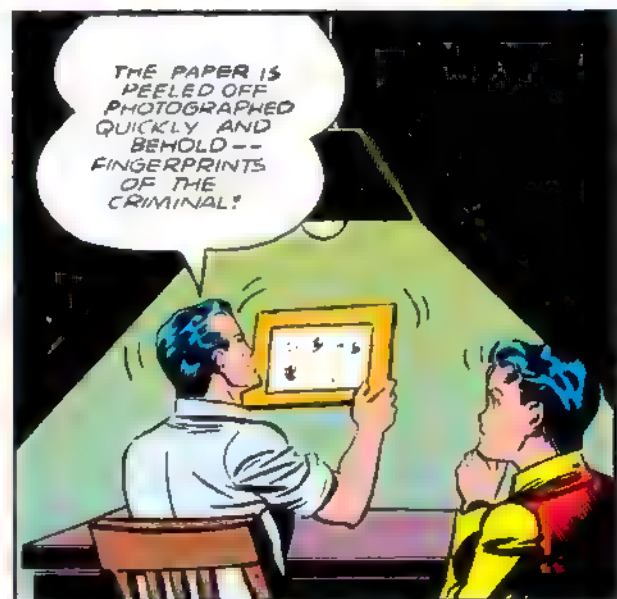
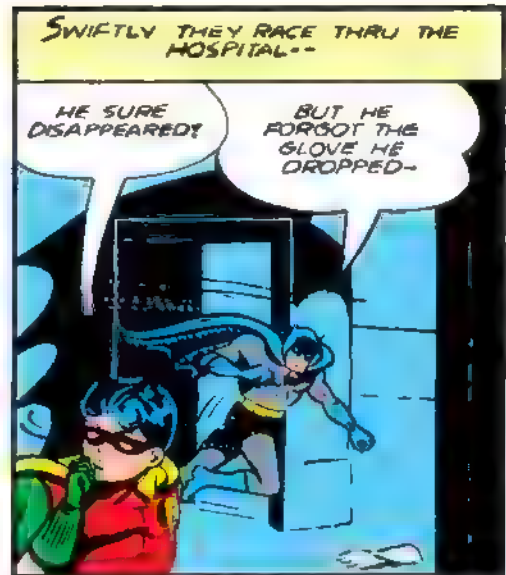
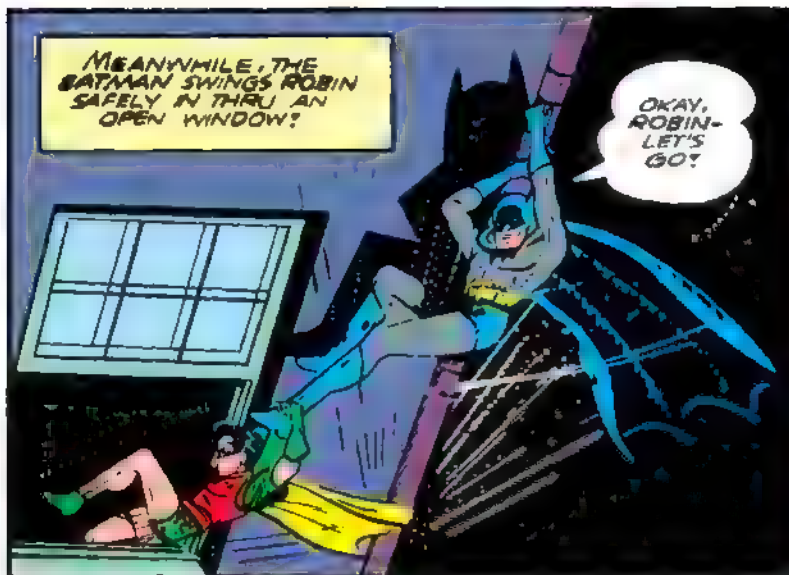
EVEN AS HE DROPS THE BOY WONDER CLUTCHES THE BATMAN'S ANKLE AND HANGS PERILOUSLY...

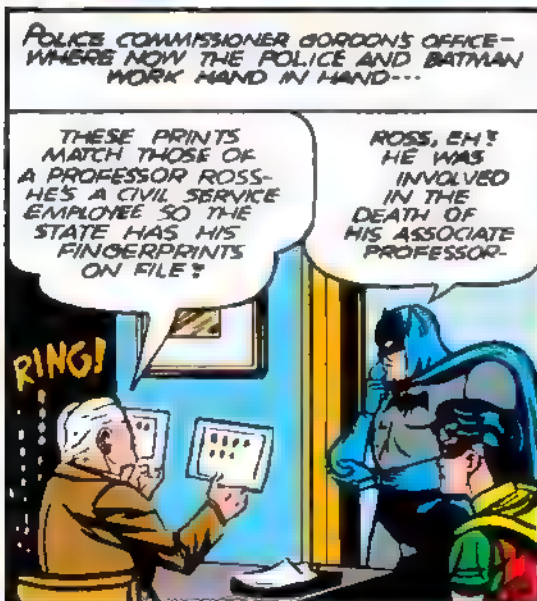
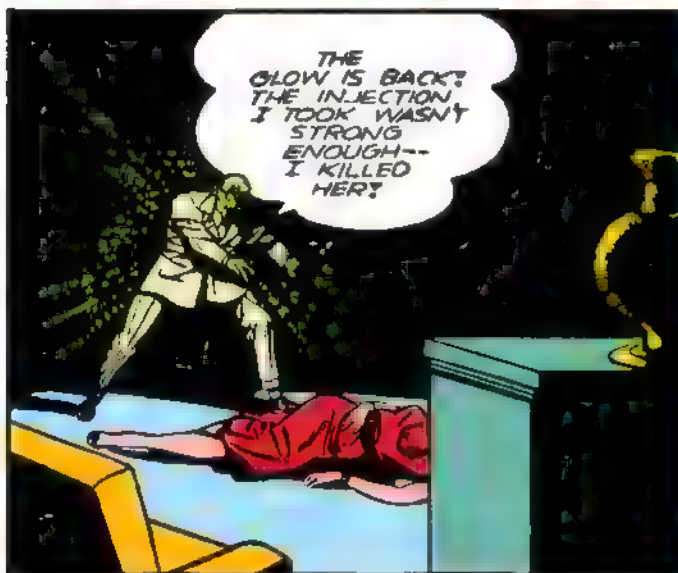
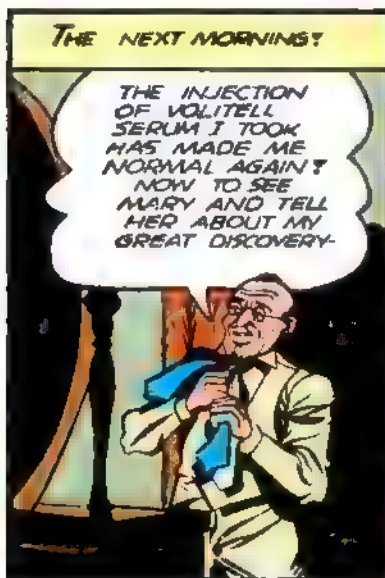
HOLD ON, ROBIN!

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

...AND IN THE HOSPITAL BASEMENT... HE MAKES HIS GETAWAY...

I HAVE THE VOLITELL - WHEN I CURE MYSELF, I'LL TELL THE WORLD OF MY DISCOVERY!





SOMETIME LATER—

YOU WERE RIGHT, BATMAN! THAT GIRL DIED OF INTERNAL RADIUM BURNS!

RADIUM BURNS?

YES... AND I SUSPECT PROFESSOR JOHNSTON DIED THE SAME WAY— THIS ALL TIES UP WITH PROFESSOR ROSS'S RADIUM EXPERIMENTS! SOMETHING WENT WRONG— HE NEEDS VOLITELL FOR AN ANTIDOTE—

LATER THAT DAY AS PROFESSOR ROSS RETURNS TO HIS HOME—

POLICE? I SHOULD HAVE RETURNED HOME SOONER— GOOD THING THE VOLITELL IS HIDDEN—

THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW SEE THE GREATEST MANHUNT IN THE HISTORY OF CRIME—

PROF. HENRY RADIUM (ROSS) AT LARGE!

MEANWHILE, A DREADED CHANGE COMES OVER PROFESSOR ROSS— HE IS NOW KNOWN AS PROFESSOR RADIUM—

I NEED MORE VOLITELL!

I'M MAD! HA-HA! I'M CRAZY! THE CURSED RADIUM!

MY HAIR IS FALLING OUT! THE RADIUM IS BEGINNING TO WREAK ITS HAVOC ON MY BODY!

I WANT TO MURDER... WAIT... WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?

THE RADIUM—ITS EATING INTO MY BODY— INTO MY BRAIN— I'M GOING MAD—

NOT A SIGN OF PROFESSOR RADIUM AND THAT BLASTED VOLITELL— WHERE DID HE HIDE IT?

VOLITELL, HMM? THAT'S WHAT HE NEEDS— IF YOU DRAW YOUR MEN AWAY FROM HIS HOUSE, I THINK WE'LL COME BACK FOR THAT VOLITELL! ROBIN AND I WILL BE WAITING FOR HIM—

POLICE WITHDRAWN FROM ROSS HOME!

POLICE GIVE UP SEARCH FOR PROF. RADIUM

AND THAT VERY NIGHT—TWO FIGURES WAIT IN THE SHADOWS—

DO YOU THINK HE'LL FALL FOR THIS STUNT?

WE'LL SEE? SHH—I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING!

SO STRONG IS THE RADIUM-CHARGED BODY OF THE PROFESSOR THAT HE LITERALLY SEARS HIS WAY THROUGH THE DOOR!



GOOD?
IT'S
EMPTY!

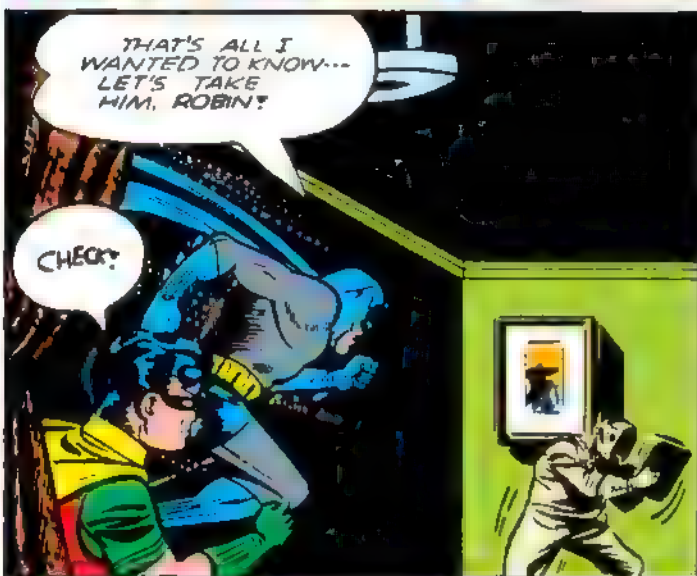
HE RACES
SWIFTLY
TO HIS
LABORATORY
AND DONS
HIS
PROTECTIVE
SUIT!



IF I DIDN'T PUT
ON THIS SUIT, I MIGHT
HAVE SET THE HOUSE
ON FIRE! LUCKILY
I'VE AN EXTRA GLOVE
TO REPLACE THE
ONE LOST! NOW--
THE VOLITELL!

HE WITHDRAWS A
LARGE BOOK,
AND....

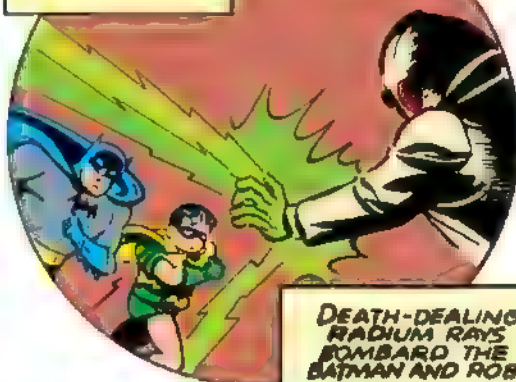
THE VOLITELL!
THE POLICE
NEVER THOUGHT
OF LOOKING
IN A BOOK
FOR IT!



THAT'S ALL I
WANTED TO KNOW...
LET'S TAKE
HIM, ROBIN!

CHECK!

SWIFTLY
PEELING OFF
A GLOVE,
THE PROFESSOR
EXPOSES A
GLOWING HAND!



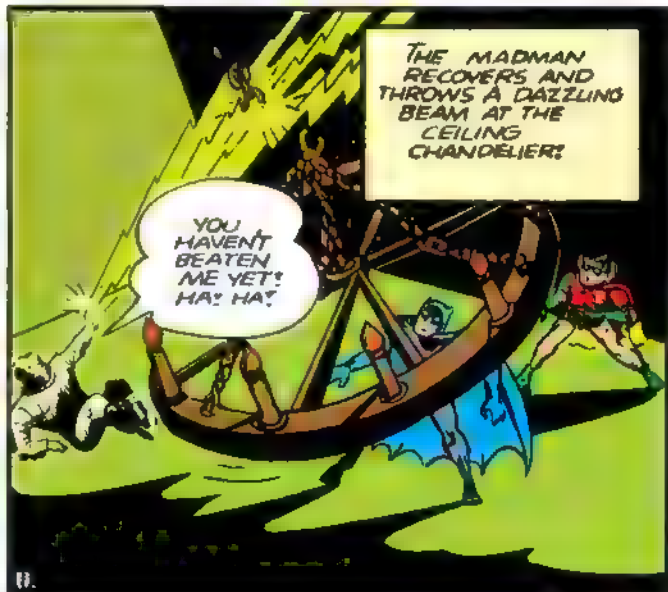
YOU FOOLS!
DIE...DIE...
NOW!

DEATH-DEALING
RADIUM RAYS
BOMBARD THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN.

BUT THE DUO REMAINS UNSCATHED...

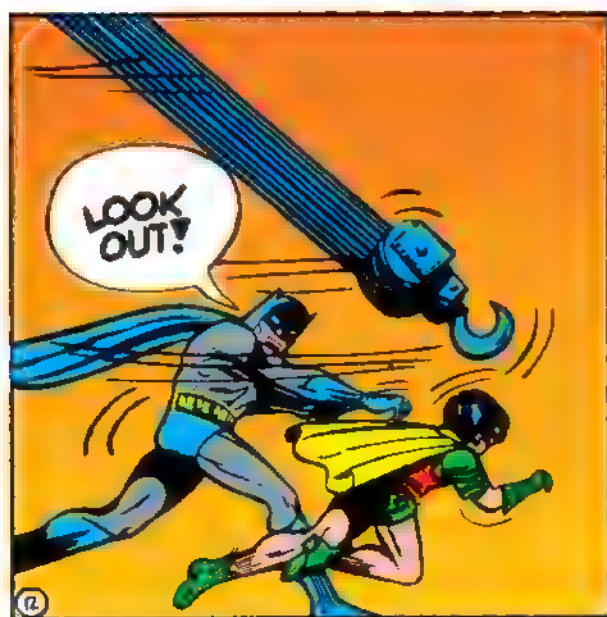
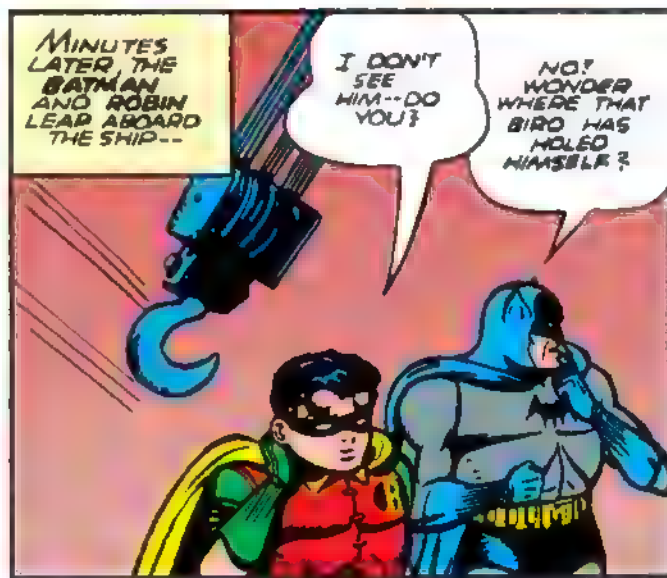
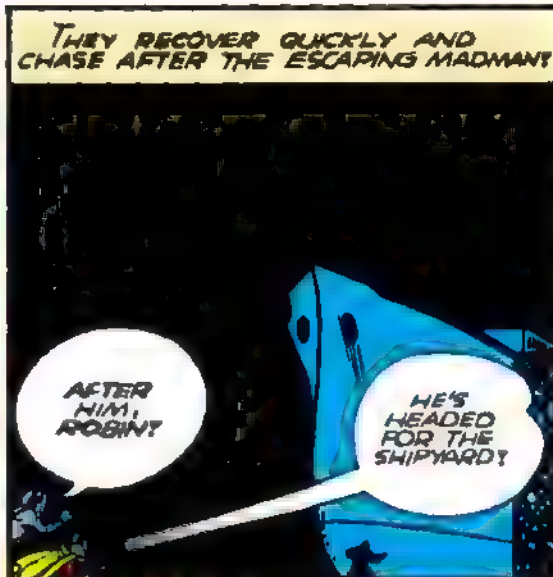
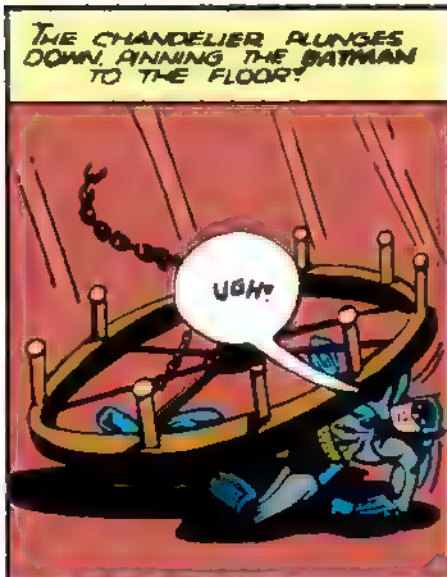


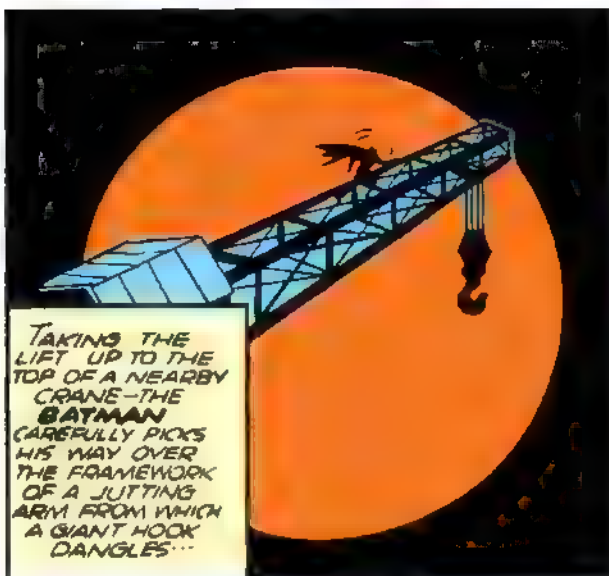
YES...WE'RE STILL
ALIVE! I MADE A
TRANSPARENT RUBBEROID
COMPOSITION THAT I
SPRAYED OVER OUR BODIES
IMMUNIZING US FROM THE
RADIUM.



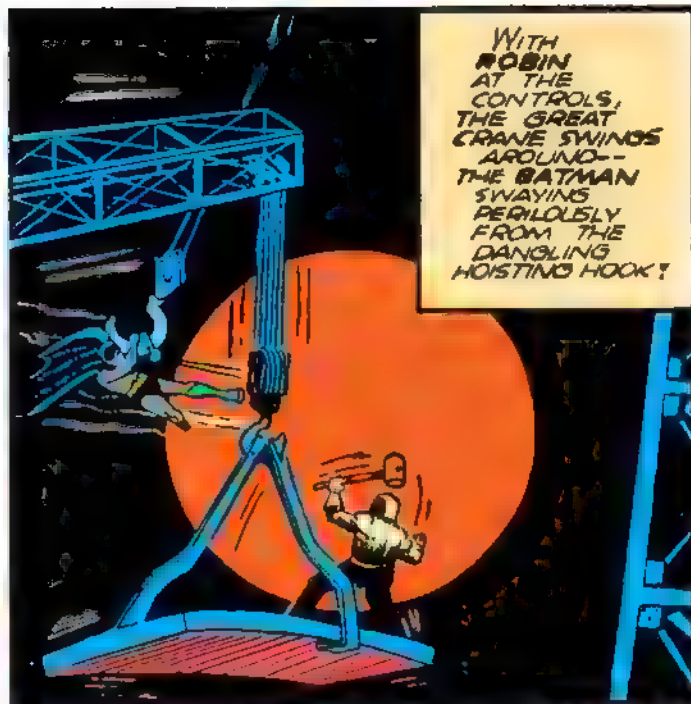
THE MADMAN
RECOVERS AND
THROWS A DAZZLING
BEAM AT THE
CEILING
CHANDELIER!

YOU
HAVEN'T
BEATEN
ME YET!
HA! HA!



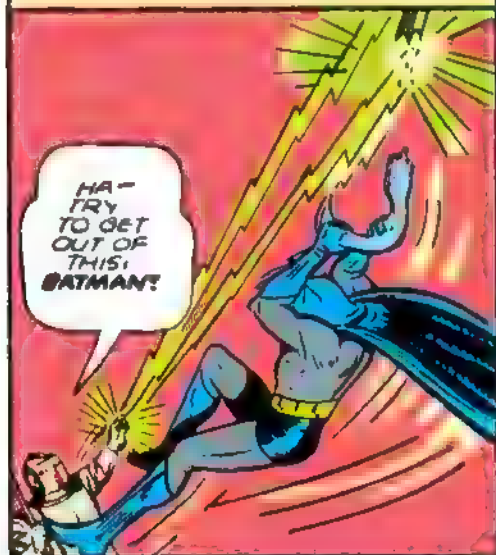


TAKING THE
LIFT UP TO THE
TOP OF A NEARBY
CRANE--THE
BATMAN
CAREFULLY PICKS
HIS WAY OVER
THE FRAMEWORK
OF A JUTTING
ARM FROM WHICH
A GIANT HOOK
DANGLES...

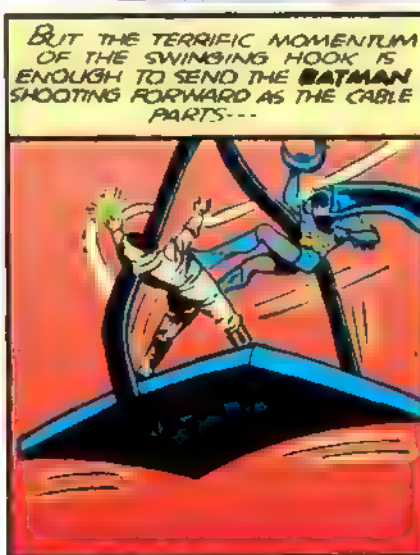


WITH
ROBIN
AT THE
CONTROLS,
THE GREAT
CRANE SWINGS
AROUND--
THE BATMAN
SWAYING
PERILOUSLY
FROM THE
DANGLING
HOISTING HOOK!

PROFESSOR RADIUM IS READY AND
WAITING! EXPOSING HIS HAND, HE
SENDS OUT SEARING RAYS THAT PART
THE CABLE!



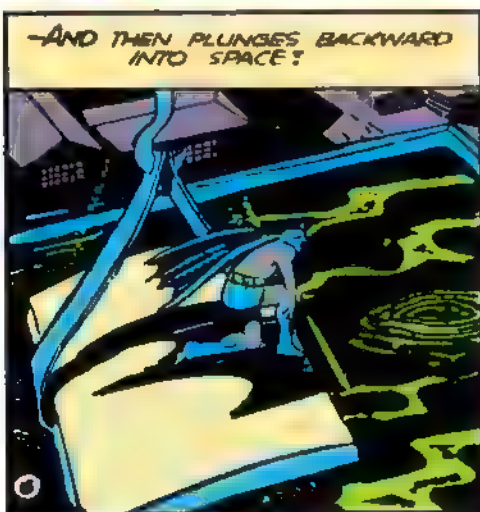
HA--
TRY
TO GET
OUT OF
THIS,
BATMAN!



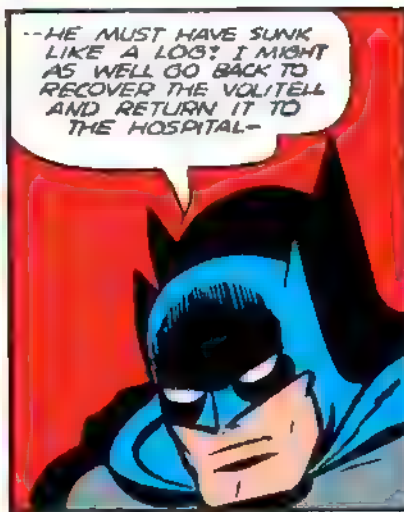
BUT THE TERRIFIC MOMENTUM
OF THE SWINGING HOOK IS
ENOUGH TO SEND THE BATMAN
SHOOTING FORWARD AS THE CABLE
PARTS---



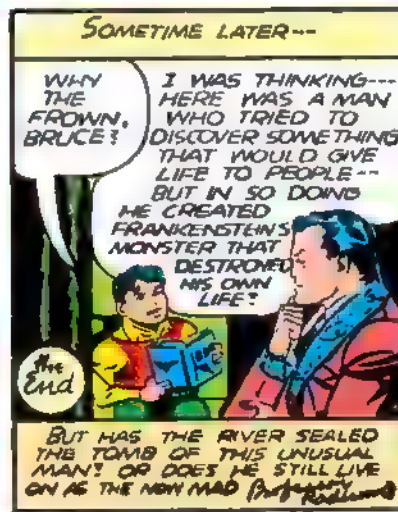
PROFESSOR RADIUM'S
ARMS FLAIL WILDLY AS HE
TRIES TO KEEP HIS
BALANCE---



--AND THEN PLUNGES BACKWARD
INTO SPACE?



--HE MUST HAVE SUNK
LIKE A LOG? I MIGHT
AS WELL GO BACK TO
RECOVER THE VOLTILL
AND RETURN IT TO
THE HOSPITAL--



SOMETIME LATER--

WHY
THE
FROWN,
BRUCE?

I WAS THINKING---
HERE WAS A MAN
WHO TRIED TO
DISCOVER SOMETHING
THAT WOULD GIVE
LIFE TO PEOPLE--
BUT IN SO DOING
HE CREATED
FRANKENSTEIN'S
MONSTER THAT
DESTROYED
HIS OWN
LIFE?

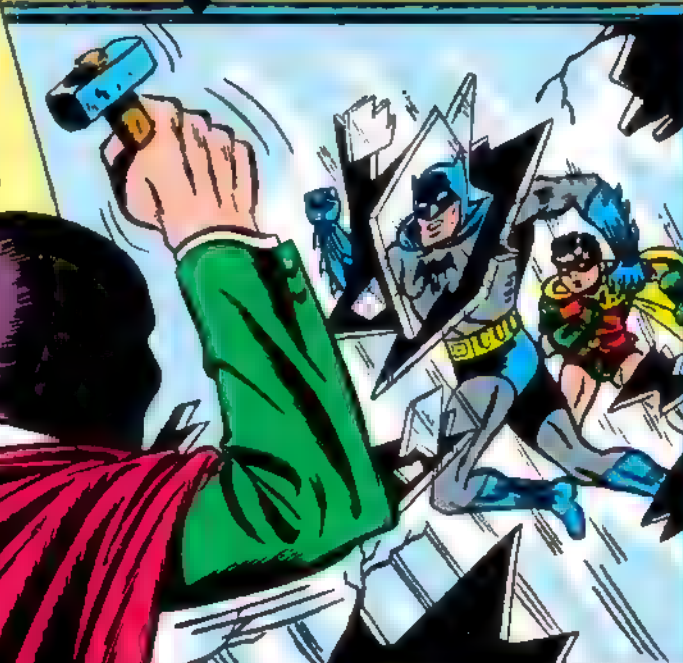
the
End

BUT HAS THE RIVER SEALED
THE TOMB OF THIS UNUSUAL
MAN? OR DOES HE STILL LIVE
ON AS THE NOW MAD Professor Radium?

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

EVER WALK UNDER A
LADDER AND WONDER WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN? EVER
JUMP IN FRIGHT AS A
BLACK CAT CROSSED YOUR
PATH? EVER BREAK YEARS OF
AND FEAR WOULD FOLLOW?
BAD LUCK ARE GOING TO
WELL...YOU ARE GOING TO
BE INTRODUCED TO A GROUP
OF PEOPLE WHO DEFIED THESE
AGE-OLD SUPERSTITIONS...AND
THE STRANGE EVENTS THAT
BEFELL THEM.
READ HOW A FEAR OF
SUPERSTITION TRANSFORMED A
COMPANY OF ACTORS INTO TERROR
RIDDEN WRETCHES WHO CRINGED
AT THEIR OWN SHADOWS...AND
HOW THE BATMAN AND ROBIN
WERE FORCED TO CALL UPON
THE LAST OUNCE OF THEIR
STRENGTH AND REASONING
POWERS TO UNRAVEL THE
MYSTERY OF
The Superstition Murders!

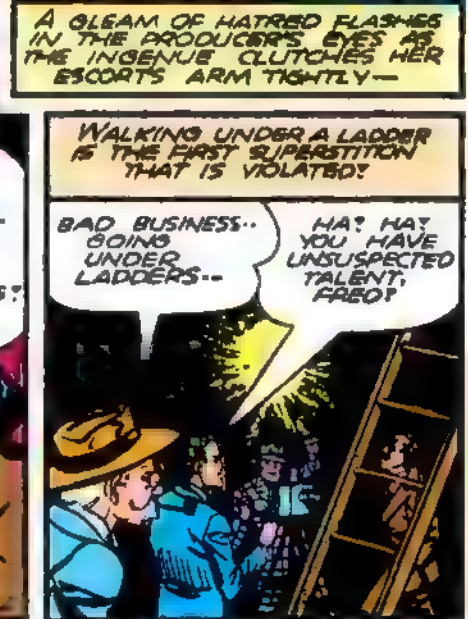
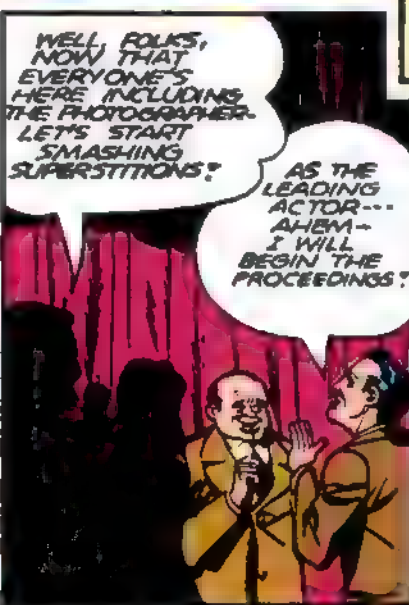
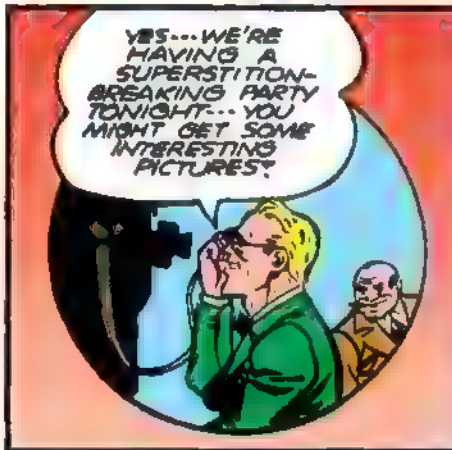
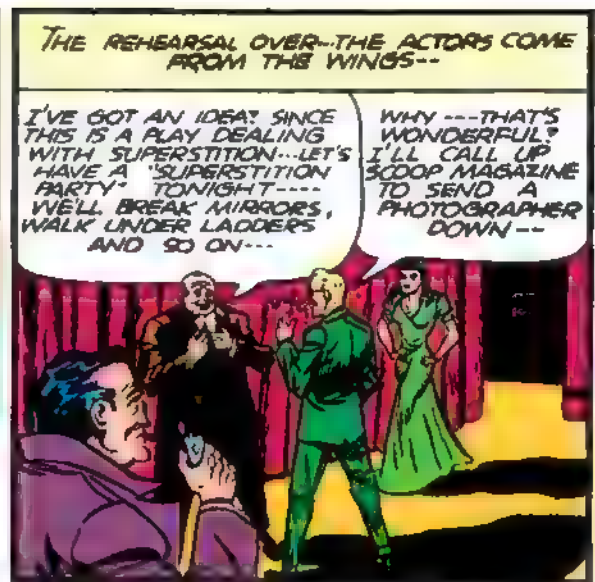


A GLISTENING NEEDLE ENTERS THE
BODY OF A TINY DOLL-----A HAND
CLUTCHES AT A FALTERING HEART---
AND A LIFELESS BODY FALLS FORWARD



HA-HA--AS THIS
NEEDLE ENTERS THE
HEART OF THE DOLL
WHICH REPRESENTS
YOU...YOU
DIE?

USHH



THREE CIGARETTES ARE LIT ON ONE MATCH?

HOLD IT, FOLKS! GOT IT!

THIS IS FUN! THREE ON A MATCH?

MARK MY WORDS, THIS WON'T BE THE END. WHEN FOLKS START BREAKING SUPERSTITIONS-- THINGS ARE BOUND TO HAPPEN! WAIT AND SEE ??



THE PHOTOGRAPHER JOINS THE PARTY--

EXCUSE IT-- BUT I'M GETTIN' INTO THE SPIRIT OF THINGS?

SURE-- THAT MAKES YOU ONE OF US?



YELLOW EYES SHINING --AND FLUR ERECT-- A BLACK CAT STALKS IN--

LOOK! WE HAVE COMPANY-- COME, KITTY-- KITTY-- CROSS MY PATH?

SOME- HOW, I DON'T LIKE THIS-- IT'S AS IF THEY WERE INVITING TROUBLE



ANOTHER SUPERSTITION IS BROKEN--AN UMBRELLA IS OPENED INDOORS?

THIS IS ONE ON ME! MAYBE IT'S GONNA RAIN-- HA? HA?

ISN'T THIS FUN?

FRANKLY... NO, I DON'T LIKE IT!

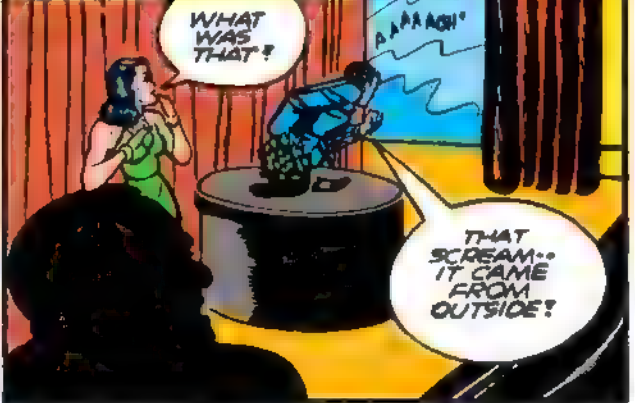


LATER--AS THE PARTY GROWS WILDER A TERRIFIED SHRIEK ... FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF A FALLING BODY ... CUTS THROUGH THE MERRY-MAKERS' DIN?

WHAT WAS THAT?



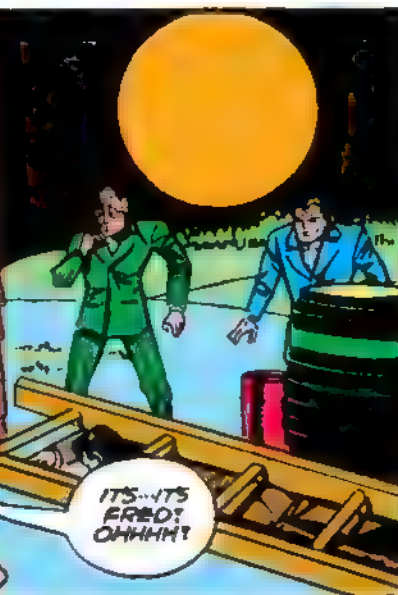
THAT SCREAM-- IT CAME FROM OUTSIDE?



OUTSIDE-- A MUTE BODY BEARS ITS OWN TESTIMONY?



IT'S...IT'S FRED! OHHHH!



THE LADDER KILLED HIM-- AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO LAUGHED AS HE WALKED UNDER ONE A LITTLE WHILE AGO?

SO YE THOUGHT YE KNEW EVERYTHIN' & LEMME TELL YE THAT THERE ARE THINGS WHICH CAIN'T BE TAMPERED WITH-- AN' SUPERSTITION IS ONE OF 'EM?



SOMEONE CALLS THE LOCAL POLICE...

I'D SAY THE LADDER FELL ON HIM? IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

I'D LIKE TO EXAMINE THAT GLASS NEAR THE BODY?

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

ACCIDENT-- HUNT THEM POLICE NEVER DID HEV BRAINS? ITS MURDER--

HE MAY BE RIGHT-- I'LL KNOW AFTER I EXAMINE THAT GLASS! I'LL KICK IT TO THE SIDE AS IF BY ACCIDENT!

IN HIS LABORATORY, THE PHOTOGRAPHER DEVELOPS THE PARTY'S PICTURES--WHEN--

WELL-- THAT OLD COOT WAS RIGHT! THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT-- IT WAS MURDER!

LATER ---

I GOT YOUR PHONE CALL-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NOTHING-- EXCEPT-- EXAMINE THIS PICTURE?

IT SHOWS YOU PUTTING POISON, FROM THE TRICK RING ON YOUR HAND, INTO BROOKS' GLASS? ER-- WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY THE PICTURE... FOR A PRICE?

I SEE...

BLACKMAIL!

MEANWHILE--

TWO THINGS HAVE TO BE CLEARED UP-- ONE IS FRED'S DRINKING GLASS--AND THE OTHER IS THAT LADDER!

LATER-- AFTER RETURNING FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER--

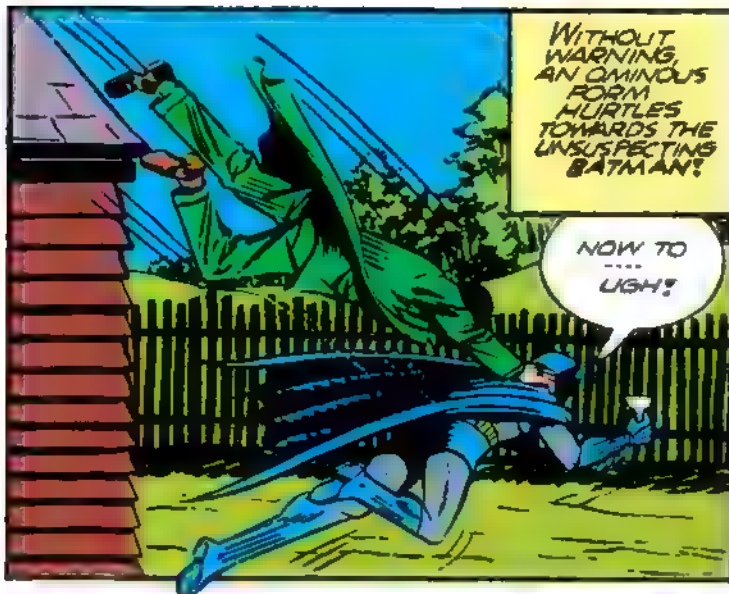
YOU OUTLINED YOUR USEFULNESS?

THE BATMAN GLIDES SILENTLY OVER THE HARD-PAVED GROUND!

HERE'S HOPING NOBODY'S MOVED ANYTHING?

OUTSIDE THE THEATRE-BARN, HE FINDS--

ANY HERE IT IS! JUST AS I SUSPECTED-- AN ODOR LIKE THAT OF BURNT ALMONDS! THIS MAN WAS MURDERED-- POISONED BY PRUSSIC ACID!



WITHOUT WARNING, AN OMINOUS FORM HURTTLES TOWARDS THE UNSUSPECTING BATMAN!

NOW TO...
UGH!

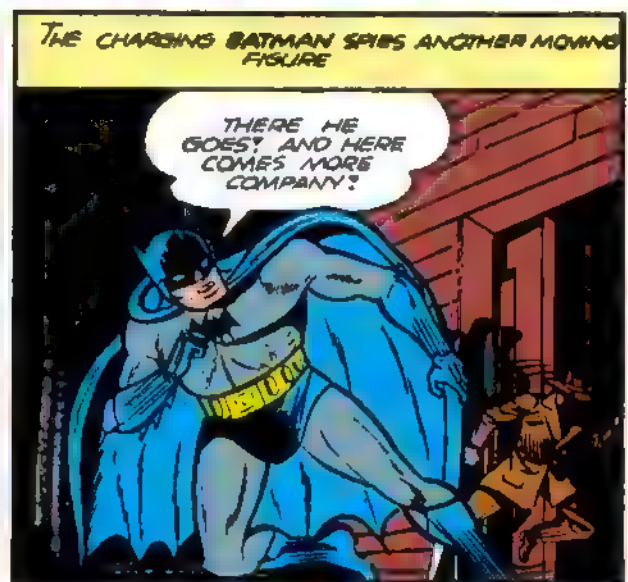


A SHARP EXCHANGE OF BLOWS FOLLOWS-- BUT THE KNEELING BATMAN IS AT A DISADVANTAGE...



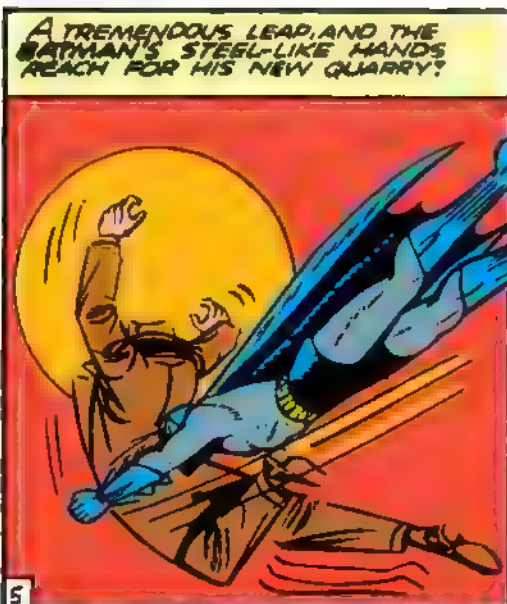
A GLOVED HAND SNATCHES UP THE ALL-IMPORTANT GLASS--AND THEN THE UNKNOWN ASSAILANT FLEES INTO THE DARKNESS?

HE TOOK THE GLASS! GOT TO CATCH HIM!

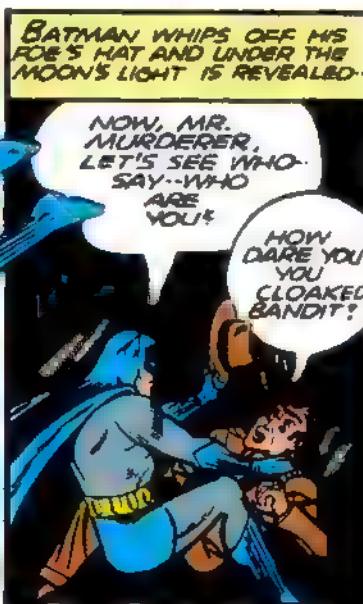


THE CHARGING BATMAN SPIES ANOTHER MOVING FIGURE

THERE HE GOES! AND HERE COMES MORE COMPANY!



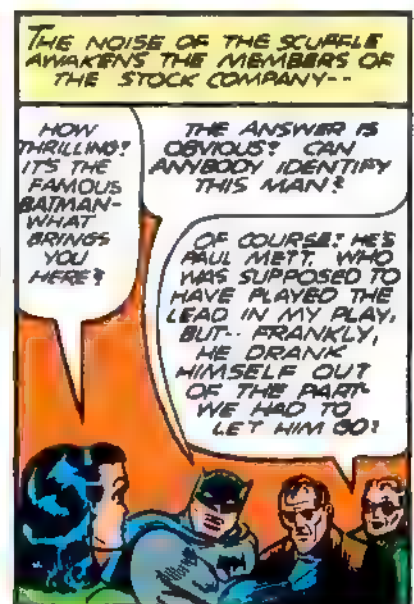
A TREMENDOUS LEAP, AND THE BATMAN'S STEEL-LIKE HANDS REACH FOR HIS NEW QUARRY?



BATMAN WHIPS OFF HIS Foe's HAT AND UNDER THE MOON'S LIGHT IS REVEALED--

NOW, MR. MURDERER, LET'S SEE WHO SAY--WHO ARE YOU?

HOW DARE YOU? YOU CLOAKED BANDIT!



THE NOISE OF THE SCUFFLE AWAKENS THE MEMBERS OF THE STOCK COMPANY--

HOW THRILLING! IT'S THE FAMOUS BATMAN--WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS? CAN ANYBODY IDENTIFY THIS MAN?

OF COURSE! HE'S PAUL METT, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PLAYED THE LEAD IN MY PLAY, BUT-- FRANKLY, HE DRANK HIMSELF OUT OF THE PART--WE HAD TO LET HIM GO!

BATMAN EXPLAINS ABOUT THE PRUSSIC ACID...

IN OTHER WORDS, WHOEVER HAS THE GLASS ON HIM, IS... THE MURDERER?

THAT'S RIGHT... AND I'M STARTING MY SEARCH WITH METT, HERE?

SURE-PICK ON ME- BECAUSE I LOST THE PART! YOU THINK I KILLED BROOKS?



AS THE PANICKY ACTOR SQUEEZES THE TROUSER, A FIGURE LEADS FORWARD?

I'VE WARNED YOU-- NOW--

WHEW!



WHILE BATMAN SEARCHES METT, ONE OF THE TROUPE PHONES THE POLICE--

THANKS- YOU SAVED MY LIFE! I WANT TO SEE WHAT THIS CHAP IS CONCEALING- WHAT'S THIS? DRAMATIC WRITE-UPS OF PAUL METT? BUT NO GLASS?

DRAMATIC CLIPPINGS? MORE PRECIOUS TO AN ACTOR THAN HIS FOOD- TOO BAD... BUT THE PATH TO OBLIVION IS GREASED!



UPON ARRIVING, THE POLICE GREET BATMAN--

BY GINGER, IT'S THE BATMAN!

FRED BROOKS WAS MURDERED, AND I'M CHECKING ON THIS MAN FOR A CLUE?

SORRY, MISTER BATMAN, BUT ONLY TEN MINUTES AGO WE LET HIM OUT OF THE HOOSEGOW WHERE HE WAS CONFINED FER DRUNKENNESS?



THE OTHERS ARE SEARCHED- BUT NO GLASS?

BANKS, YOU AND BROOKS WERE IN PARTNERSHIP ON ALL YOUR SHOWS- IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU ARE THE ONE TO PROFIT MOST BY HIS... ER-- DEATH?

IF I HAD ANY INTENTIONS OF COMMITTING MURDER- I WOULD DO IT MORE CLEVERLY!



A CRACKING VOICE RIPS THROUGH THE NIGHT-AIR----

MARK MY WORDS-- THERE'LL BE MORE MURDERS! ONLY IGNORANT PEOPLE ABUSE SUPERSTITION!

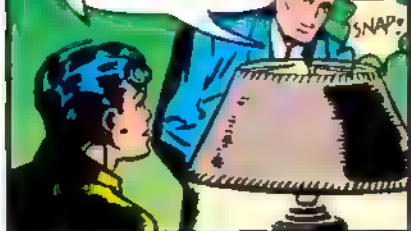
HE MEANS US!



LATER---

--YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST TO PREVENT MORE MURDERS?

THAT GLASS WAS MY ONLY CLUE AND IT'S GONE- I WONDER IF THE PHOTOGRAPHER WOULD-- SAY- I'VE GOT IT! TOMORROW NIGHT, I WANT YOU TO SEE THE PHOTOGRAPHER LOOK AT THE PICTURES HE SNAPPED- ONE OF THEM MAY CONTAIN A CLUE!

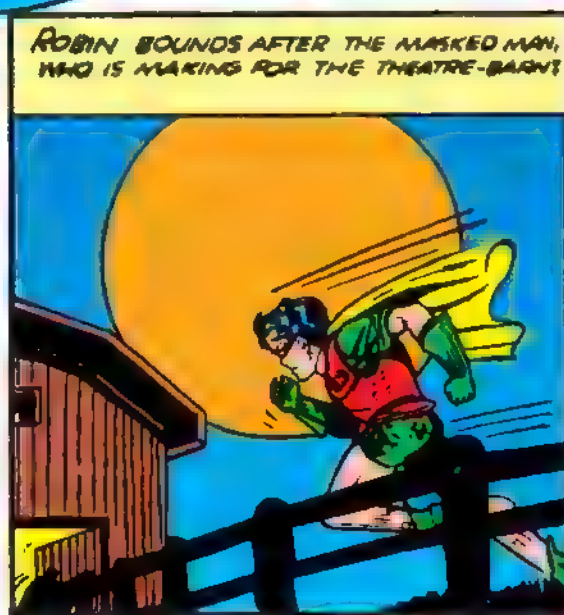
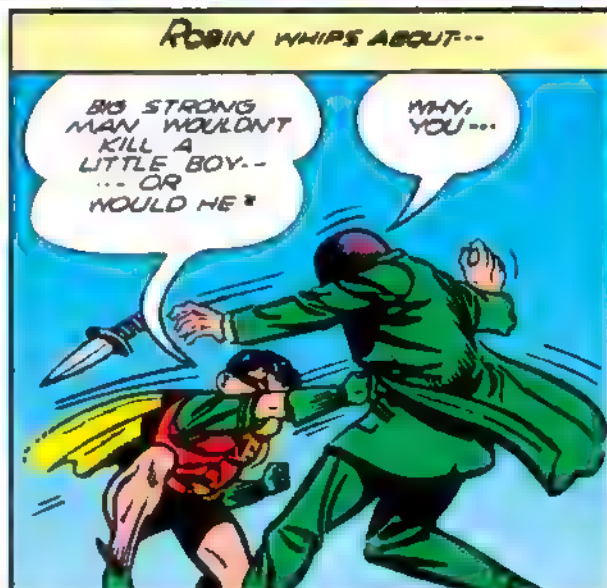
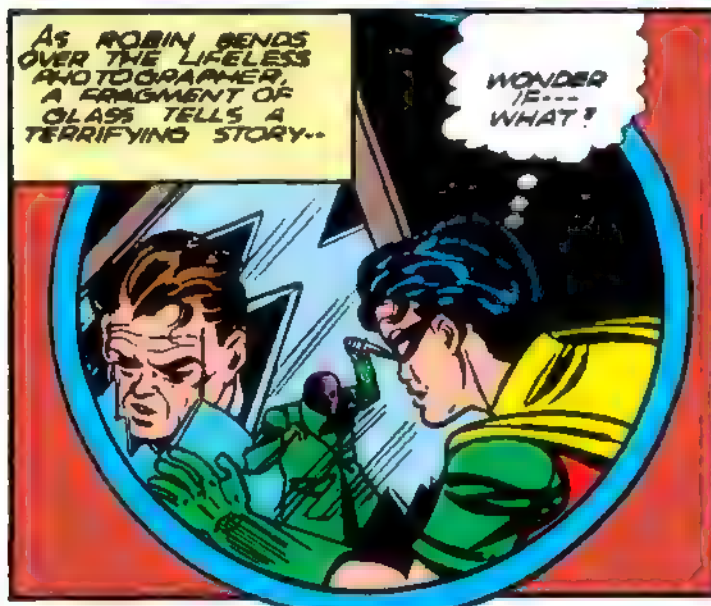
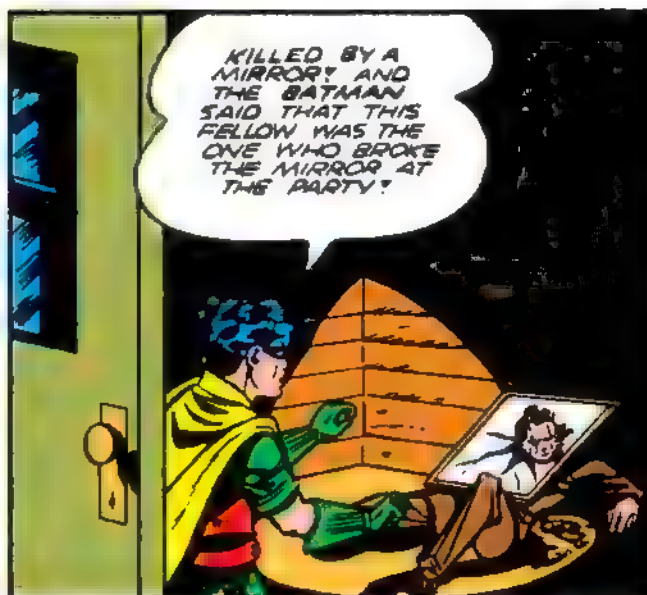


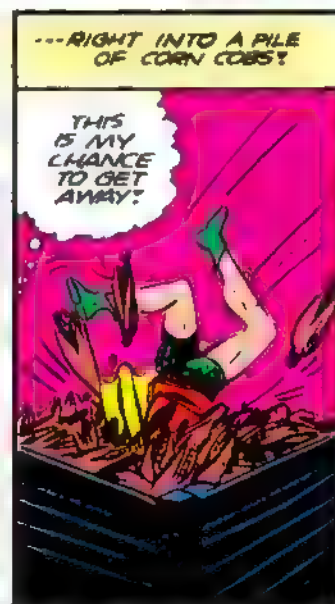
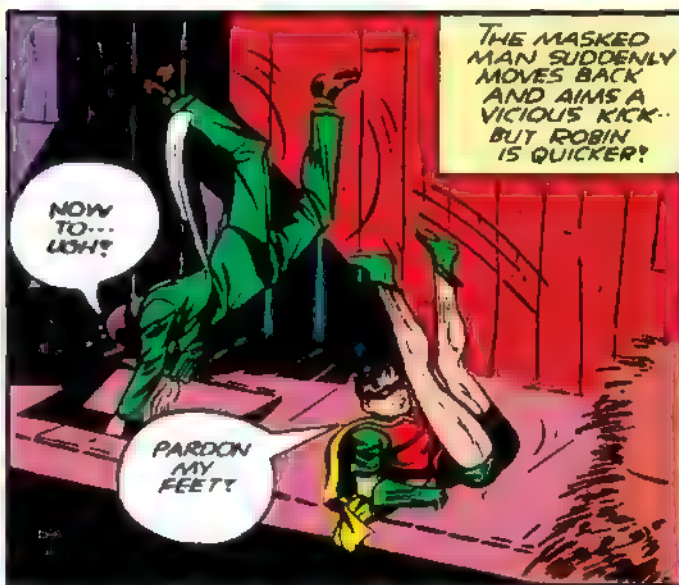
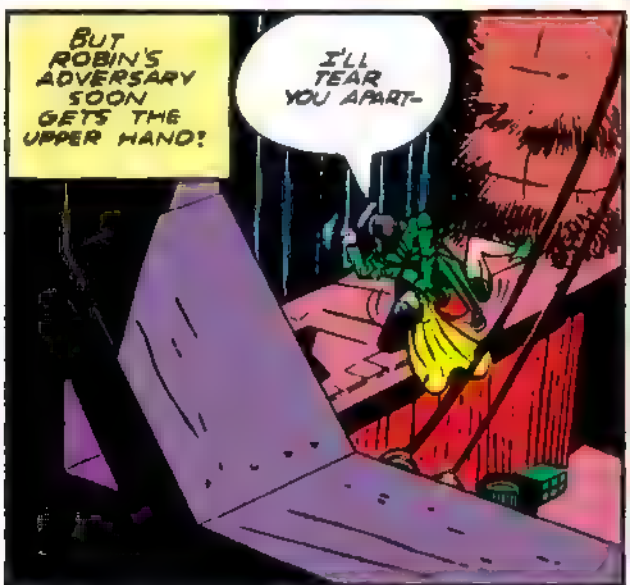
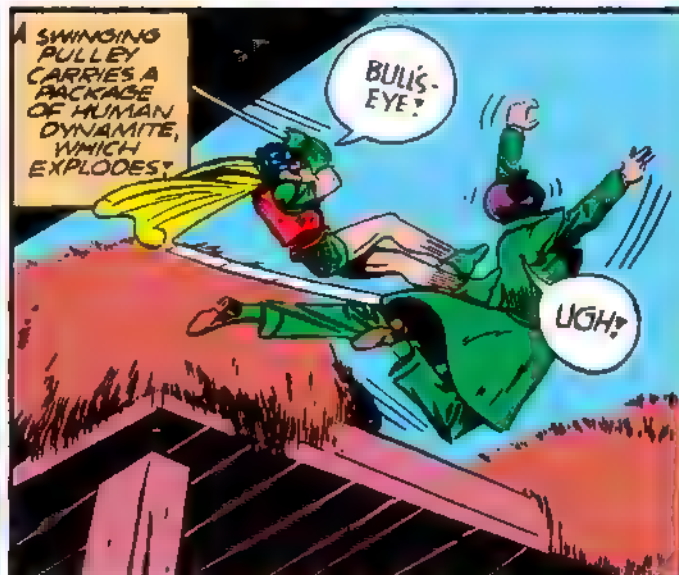
NEXT NIGHT-- THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S CABIN?

WHAT'S THAT?

I PAID FOR THE PICTURE, BUT YOU KEPT THE NEGATIVE?

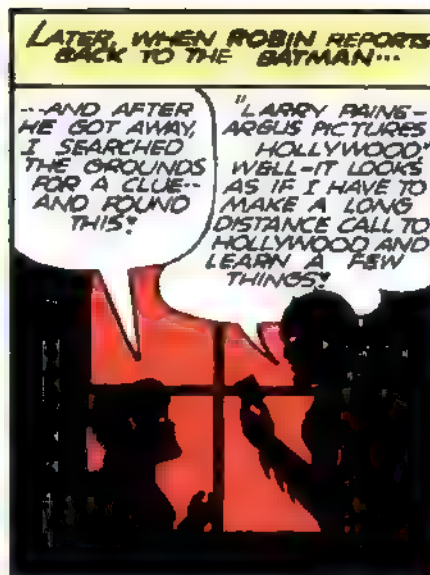








LOOKS LIKE MY MASKED PAL GOT AWAY? AND SO HELP ME, IF ANYBODY EVER MENTIONS COIN TO ME-- I'LL--I'LL--



LATER, WHEN ROBIN REPORTS BACK TO THE BATMAN...

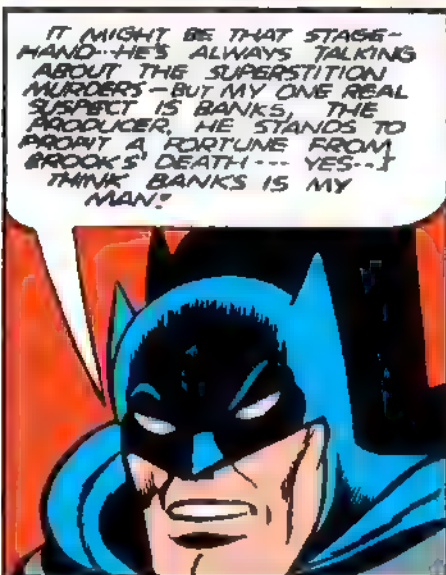
--AND AFTER HE GOT AWAY, I SEARCHED THE GROUNDS FOR A CLUE-- AND FOUND THIS:

"LARRY RAINE-- ARGUS PICTURES HOLLYWOOD-- WELL--IT LOOKS AS IF I HAVE TO MAKE A LONG DISTANCE CALL TO HOLLYWOOD AND LEARN A FEW THINGS."

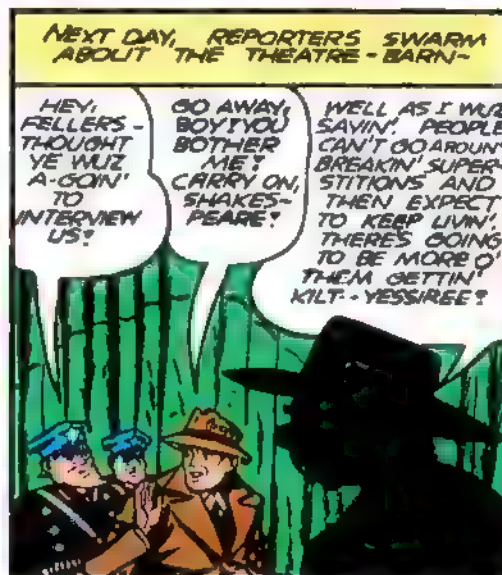


I WISH I KNEW WHO OUR MURDERER WAS?

SO DO I? IT CERTAINLY ISN'T JOHNNY GLIM, THE AUTHOR, HE SAVED MY LIFE WHEN PAUL METT TRIED TO KILL ME? HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T SAVE THE LIFE OF THE DETECTIVE IF HE WERE GUILTY?



IT MIGHT BE THAT STAGE-HAND--HE'S ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THE SUPERSTITION MURDERS--BUT MY ONE REAL SUSPECT IS BANKS, THE PRODUCER, HE STANDS TO PROFIT A FORTUNE FROM BROOKS' DEATH--- YES--I THINK BANKS IS MY MAN!

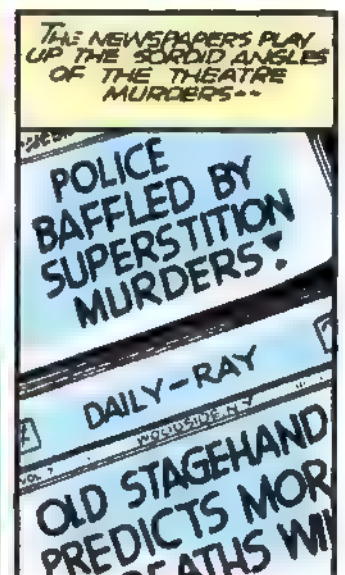


NEXT DAY, REPORTERS SWARM ABOUT THE THEATRE-BARN--

HEY, FELLERS-- THOUGHT YE WUZ A-GON' TO INTERVIEW US?

GO AWAY, BOY! YOU BOTHER ME? CARRY ON, SHAKES-PEARE?

WELL AS I WUZ SAYIN' PEOPLE CAN'T GO AROUND BREAKIN' SUPERSTITIONS AND THEN EXPECT TO KEEP LIVIN' THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE O' THEM GETTIN' KILT--YESSIRREE?

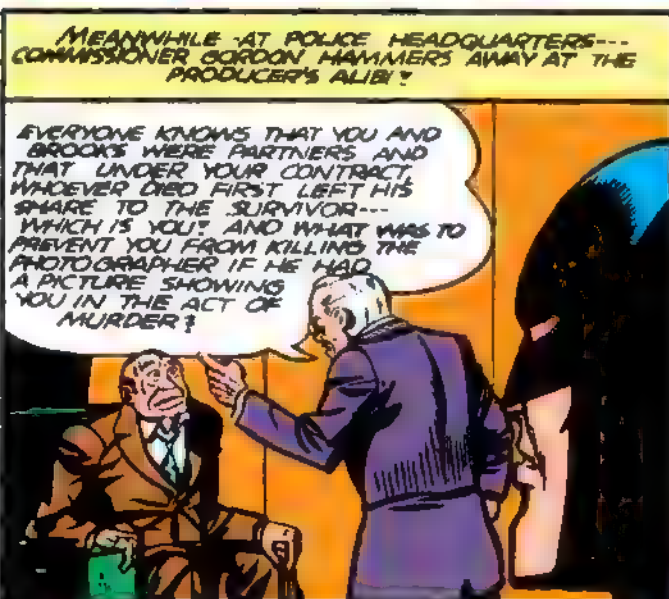


THE NEWSPAPERS PLAY UP THE SORDID ANGLES OF THE THEATRE MURDERS--

POLICE BAFFLED BY SUPERSTITION MURDERS!

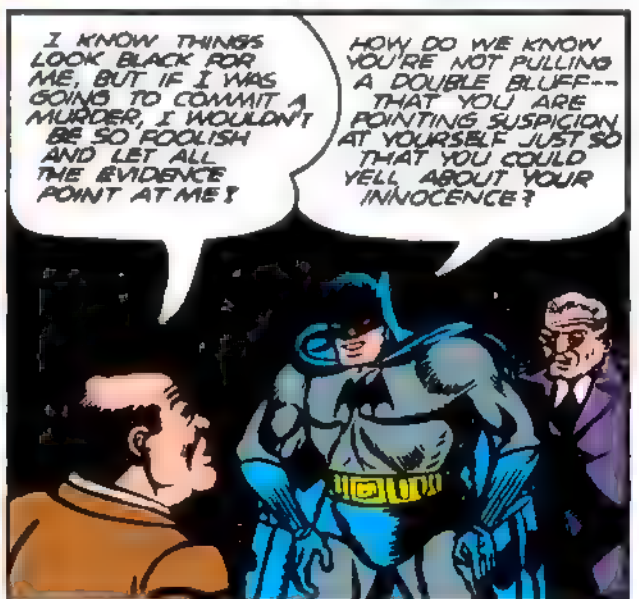
DAILY-RAY

OLD STAGEHAND PREDICTS MORE DEATHS WILL



MEANWHILE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--- COMMISSIONER GORDON HAMMERS AWAY AT THE PRODUCER'S ALIBI!

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT YOU AND BROOKS WERE PARTNERS AND THAT UNDER YOUR CONTRACT WHOEVER DIED FIRST LEFT HIS SHARE TO THE SURVIVOR--- WHICH IS YOU? AND WHAT WAS TO PREVENT YOU FROM KILLING THE PHOTOGRAPHER IF HE HAD A PICTURE SHOWING YOU IN THE ACT OF MURDER?



I KNOW THINGS LOOK BLACK FOR ME, BUT IF I WAS GOING TO COMMIT A MURDER, I WOULDN'T BE SO FOOLISH AND LET ALL THE EVIDENCE POINT AT ME?

HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT PULLING A DOUBLE BLUFF--- THAT YOU ARE POINTING SUSPICION AT YOURSELF JUST SO THAT YOU COULD YELL ABOUT YOUR INNOCENCE?

AT THE BARN-THEATRE, SCENERY IS BEING TAKEN TO WAITING TRUCKS--FOR TONIGHT--THE PLAY OPENS IN THE CITY!

WELL, CHILLUN, TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT--I'LL BE IN THE FRONT ROW, CHEERING?

DO YOU THINK THE ER--UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY WILL AFFECT THE SALE OF TICKETS?

THIS PLAY SHOULD NEVER OPEN--IT'S CURSED!

THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE THE TROJAN THEATRE?

ERS

SUPERSTITION MURDERS

DON'T... DON'T EVEN SAY THAT?

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, MY FRIEND. THE PUBLIC ALWAYS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO SOMETHING WITH MORBID OVERTONES--THEY'RE PROBABLY HOPING FOR ANOTHER MURDER!

HELLO, BANKS-- THOUGHT THE POLICE WERE HOLDING YOU.

THEY COULDN'T HOLD ME-- I GOT OUT ON A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS-- HOLY SMOKE! LOOK AT THAT CROWD!

AS THE CURTAIN RISES, AN ODD SCENE TAKES PLACE IN ONE OF THE DRESSING ROOMS

MEOWRR--

QUIET--SOON YOU WILL BE PLAYING A STARRING ROLE?

IN THE WINGS--AS THE INDIGNEE AWAITS HER CUE---

I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN YOUR SHOES-- HAVING TO CARRY A BLACK CAT ON THE STAGE?

DON'T BE SILLY! THEY ARE MY FAVORITES!

AT THAT MOMENT, A DART STREAKS FROM A BLOW-TUBE--

...AND IMBEDS ITS NEEDLE-POINT INTO THE BLACK CATS HIDE--

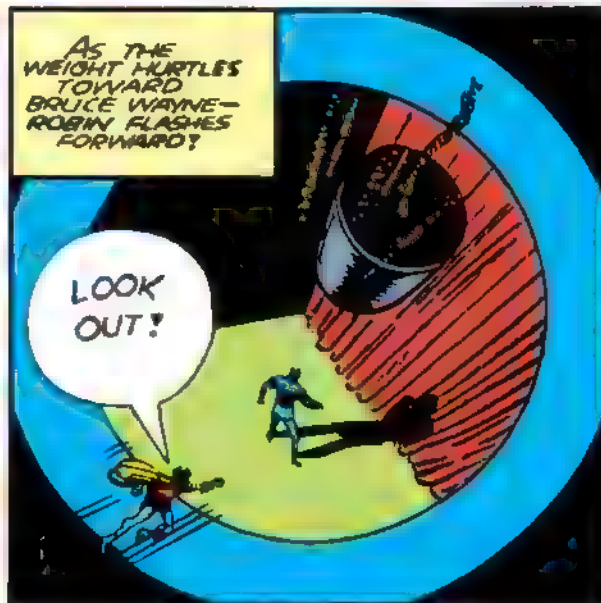
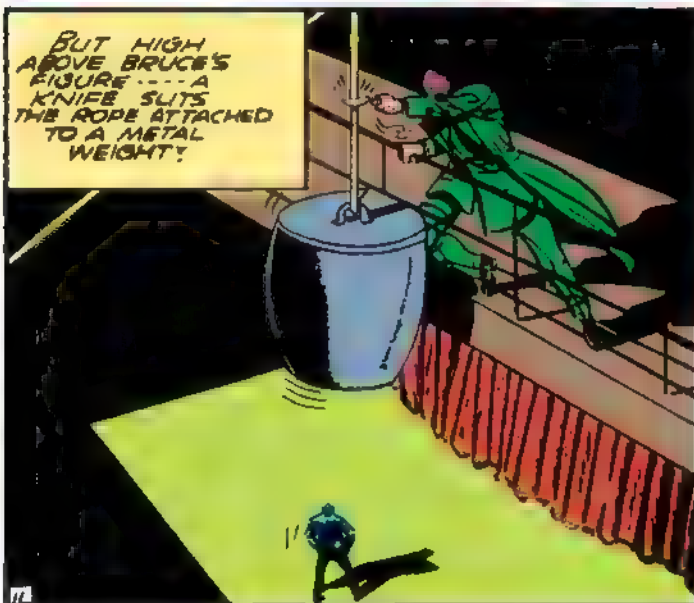
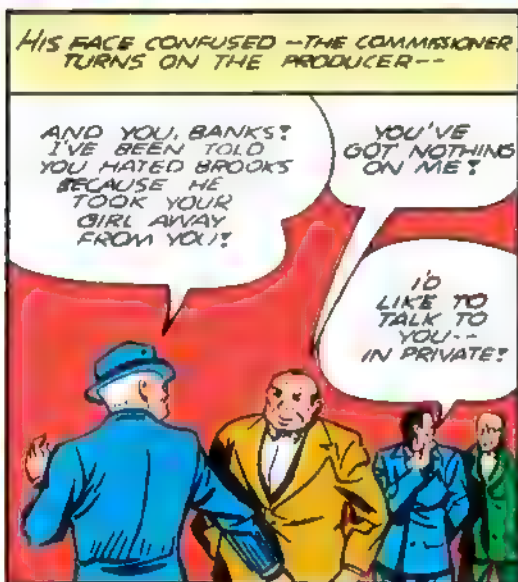
I LOVE CATS-- AAAIIIIII--

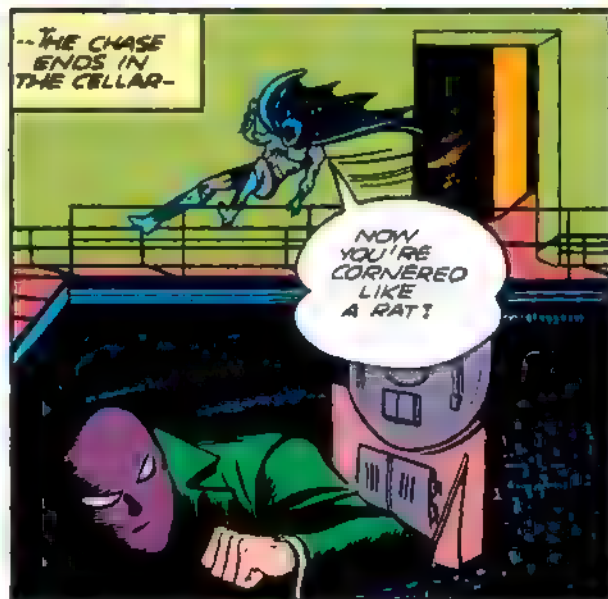
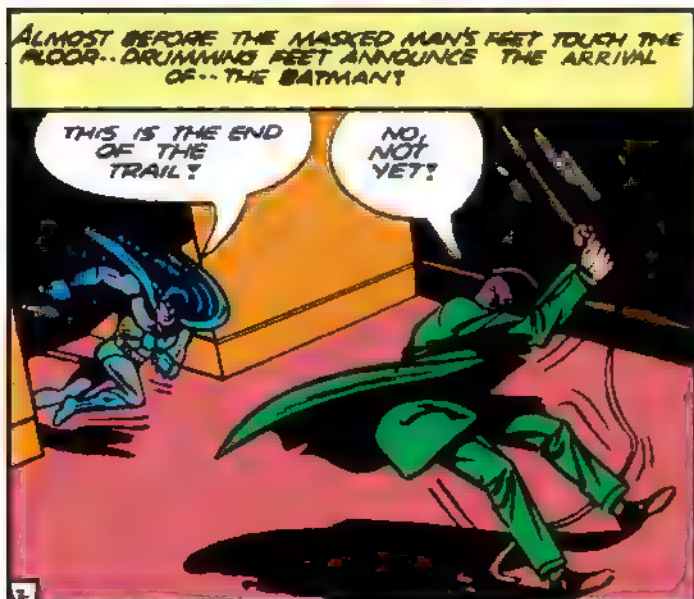
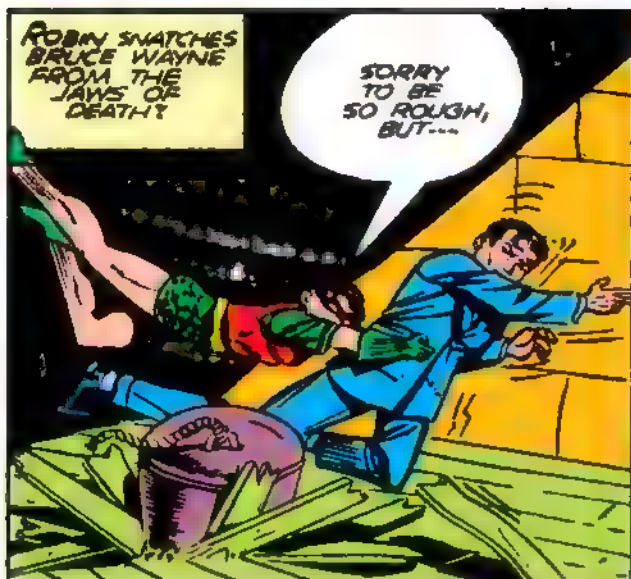
GOOD HEAVENS!

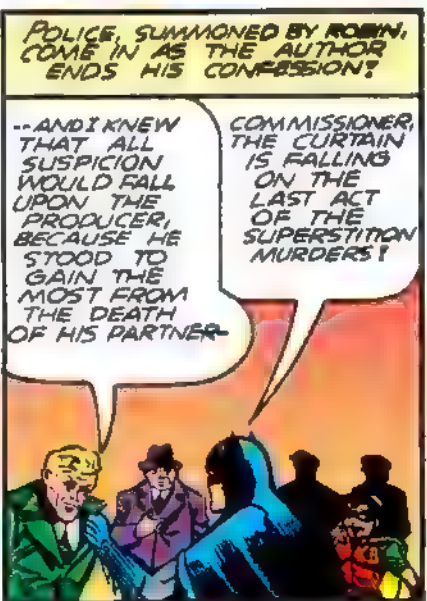
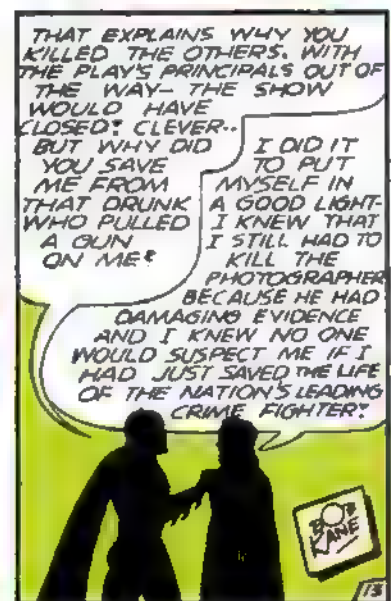
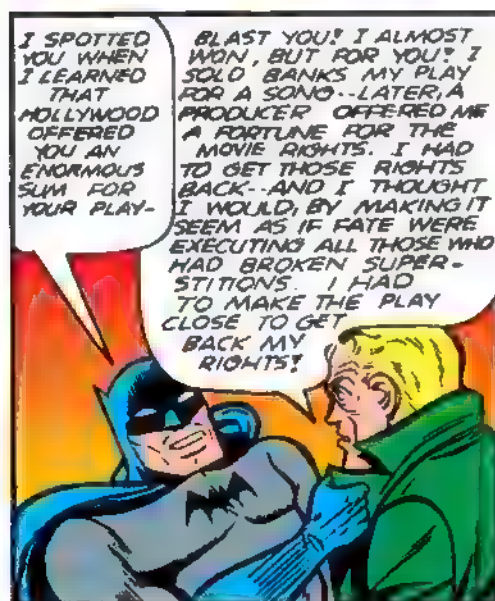
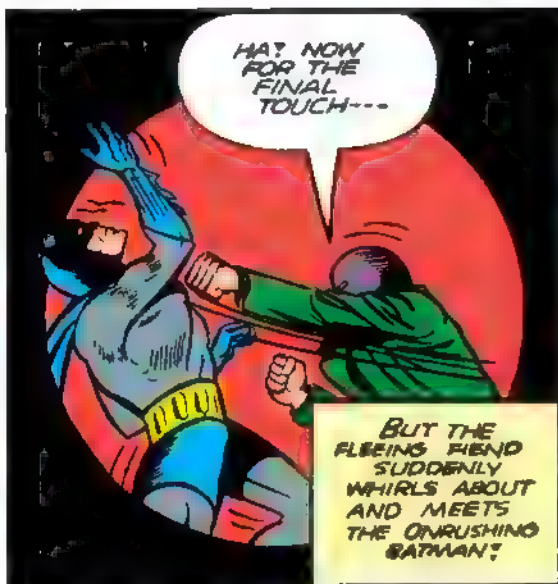
THE BODY TOPPLES TO THE STAGE IN FULL VIEW OF THE AUDIENCE---

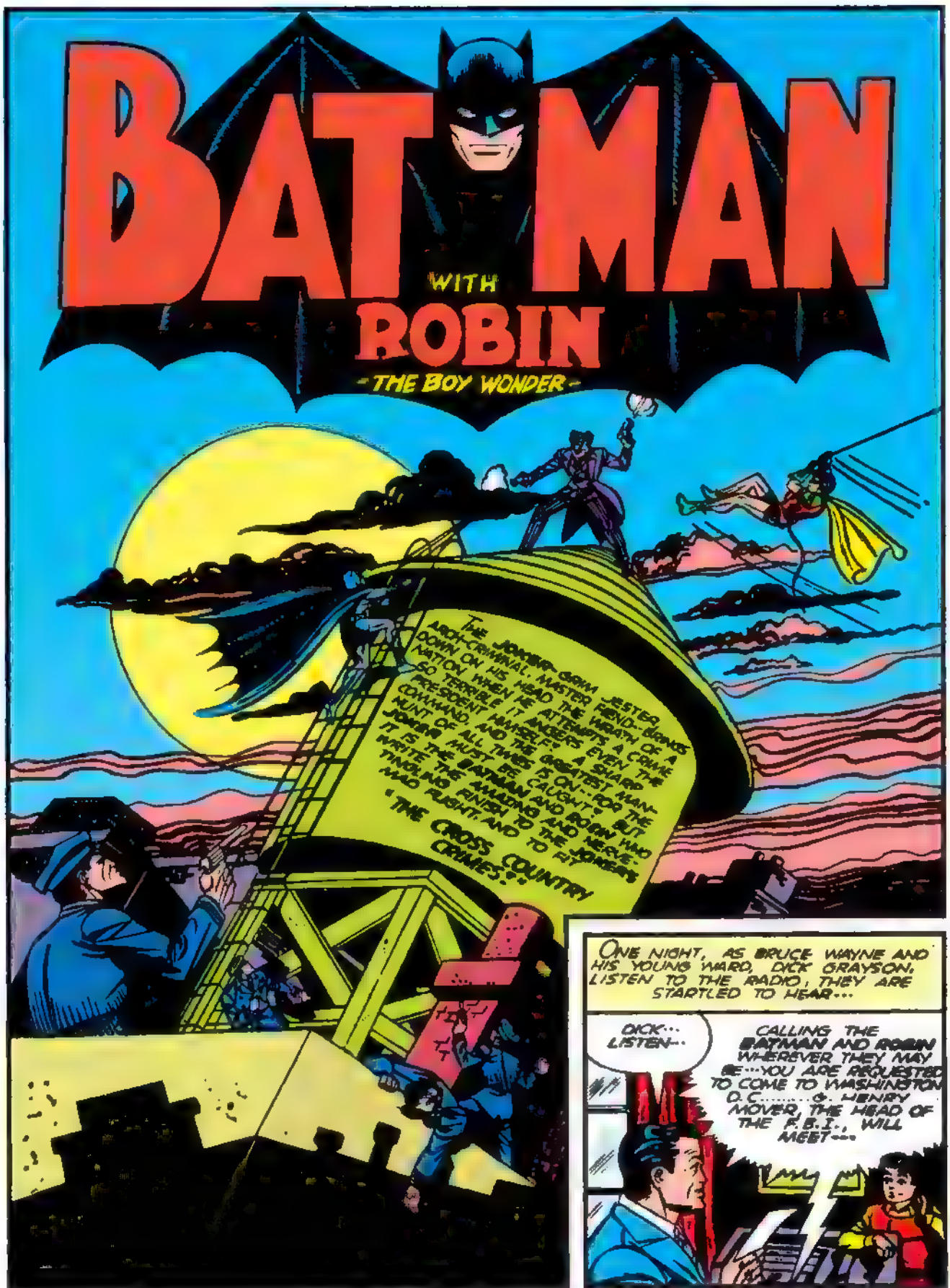
SHE'S-- SHE'S DEAD

ONCE AGAIN, A VIOLATED SUPERSTITION WREAKS VENGEANCE UPON THE PERSON WHO DARED TO BREAK IT!









... AND WILL PERSONALLY DELIVER THE GOOD WISHES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESIDENT FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN RIDDING THIS COUNTRY OF CRIME...THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF REQUESTS YOUR APPEARANCE SO DO NOT...

LET'S GO THOSE ARE ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON!

WOW?

NOW THESE TWO BECOME THE TWIN TERRORS OF ALL CRIMINALS--THE BATMAN AND ROBIN----

THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS THE DYNAMIC DUO TO WASHINGTON WHERE THEY LEAD A GREAT TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION INTO THE CITY AS THE PEOPLE CHEER WILDLY.

LIFT ME UP HIGH, MOMMY.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

WOW?

HURRAY!

I WANT TO SEE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

WELCOME BATMAN and ROBIN

G. HENRY MOVER HIMSELF GREETS THE HEROES--

IT'S INDEED A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU TWO---

ROBIN AND I CAN NEVER HOPE TO BE AS THOROUGH AS YOUR G-MEN, MR. MOVER!

SUDDENLY A SINGLE, STACCATO SHOT RIPS THROUGH THE AIR!

CRACK!

I MISSED YOU, BATMAN! BUT I'LL GET YOU AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME! HA HA!

WHO IS THIS TERRIBLE, MENACING FIGURE? CAN IT BE --- YES, IT IS --- THE JOKER!

THE JOKER DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW! MOMENTS LATER, PURSUING POLICE REAPPEAR--

NOT A TRACE OF HIM?

WE'LL FIND HIM IF WE HAVE TO TURN THIS COUNTRY UPSIDE DOWN!

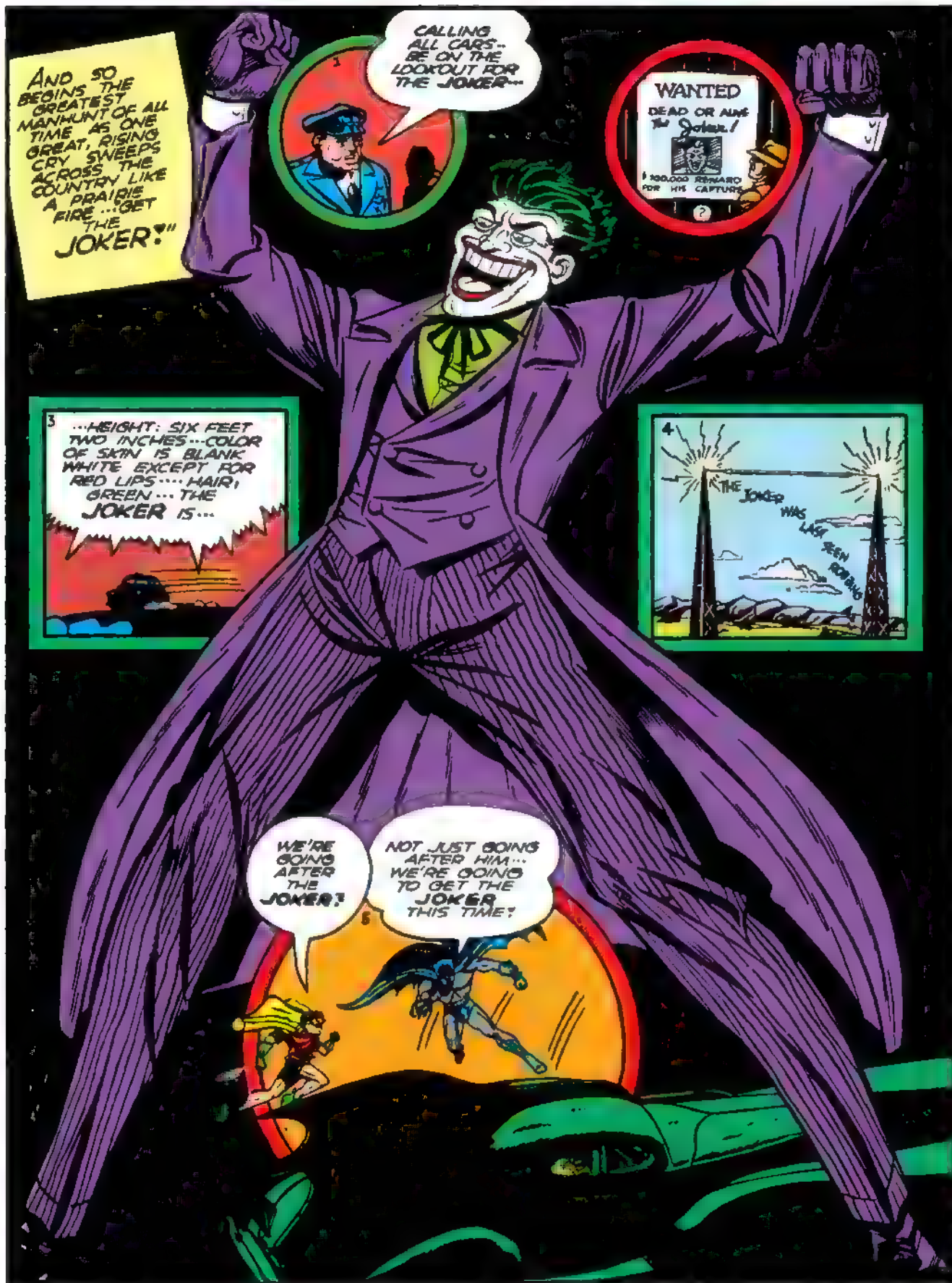
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE IDLE EITHER!

AS THE SHOCKED NATION LISTENS--

TONIGHT THE CAPITAL IS STILL TALKING ABOUT THE BRAZEN ATTACK OF THE JOKER...

THE MENACE OF THE JOKER MUST BE COPEL WITH--

THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TONIGHT ORDERS THE NATION'S POLICE FORCE TO BRING IN THE JOKER.



AND SO
BEGINS THE
GREATEST
MANHUNT OF ALL
TIME AS ONE
GREAT, RISING
CRY SWEEPS
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY LIKE
A PRAIRIE
FIRE...GET
THE
JOKER!"

CALLING
ALL CARS--
BE ON THE
LOOKOUT FOR
THE JOKER--

WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE
The Joker!
\$100,000 REWARD
FOR HIS CAPTURE

3 ...HEIGHT: SIX FEET
TWO INCHES--COLOR
OF SKIN IS BLANK
WHITE EXCEPT FOR
RED LIPS....HAIR,
GREEN...THE
JOKER IS...

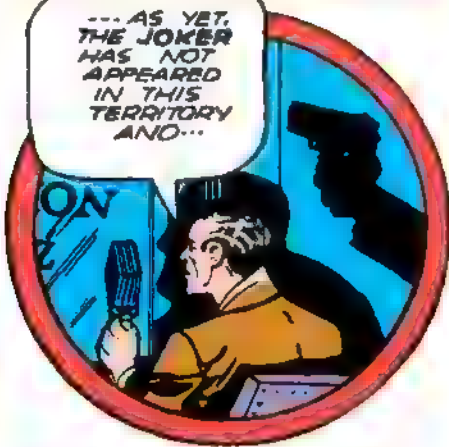
4 THE JOKER WAS
LAST SEEN
ROBING

WE'RE
GOING
AFTER
THE
JOKER?

NOT JUST GOING
AFTER HIM...
WE'RE GOING
TO GET THE
JOKER
THIS TIME!

A SMALL RADIO STATION NEARBY--

---AS YET, THE JOKER HAS NOT APPEARED IN THIS TERRITORY AND---



YOU SPEAK TOO SOON!



GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- THIS IS A SPECIAL PROGRAM COMING TO YOU FROM THE JOKER! HA! HA! TO THE POLICE AND ESPECIALLY THE BATMAN I HAVE THIS TO SAY---YOU MAY LOOK FOR ME, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME! ..

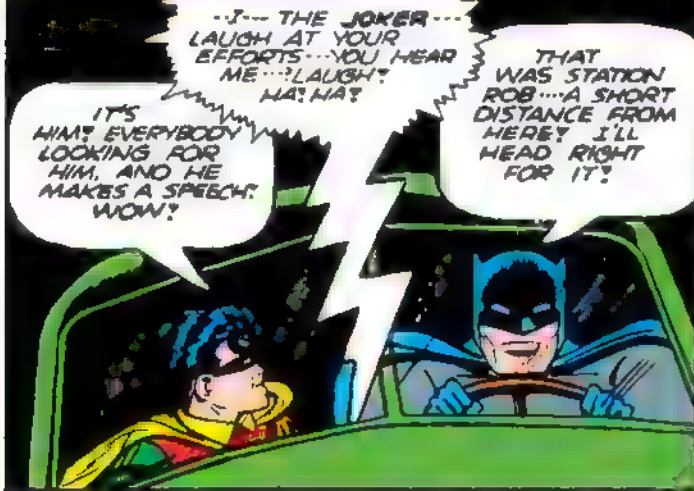


AND ON A LONELY ROAD SOMEWHERE---

--J-- THE JOKER--- LAUGH AT YOUR EFFORTS---YOU HEAR ME---LAUGH! HA! HA!

THAT WAS STATION ROB---A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HEREY I'LL HEAD RIGHT FOR IT!

IT'S HIM! EVERYBODY LOOKING FOR HIM, AND HE MAKES A SPEECH. WOW!



BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVE, THEY FIND THE JOKER IS---

GONE! THE JOKER'S GONE!

YES... BUT HE'S LEFT SOMETHING FOR US!



THE FIRST CLUE?

GUESS WHERE I AM GOING NOW, BATMAN-- HA! HA! HA!



WHAT'S IT MEAN?

THE JOKER'S JUST TOLD US HE'S GONE TO NEW JERSEY-- AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL PICK UP HIS TRAIL! C'MON!

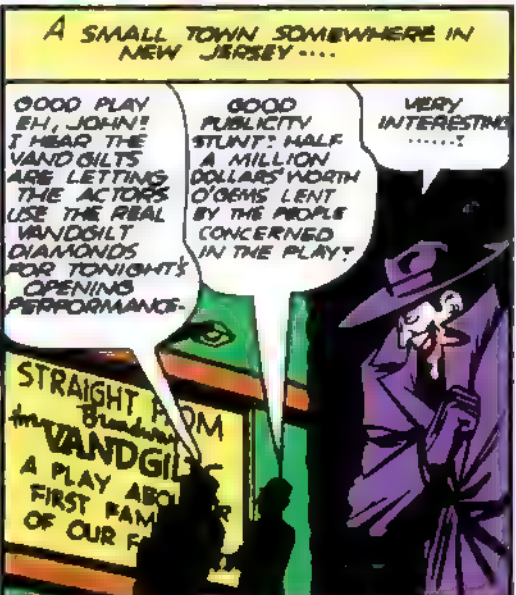


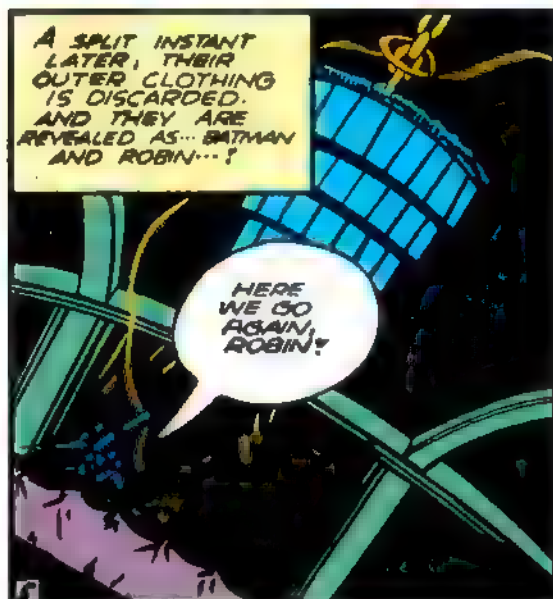
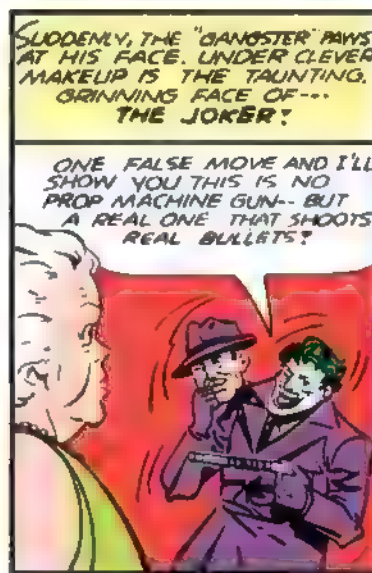
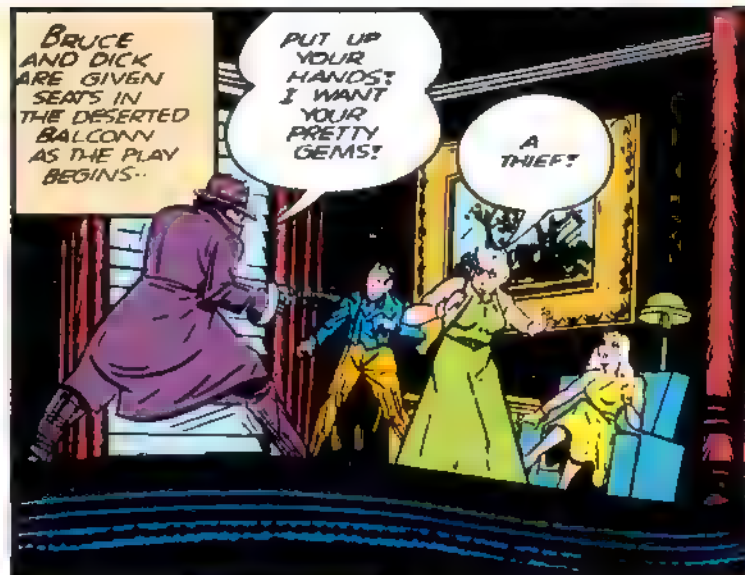
A SMALL TOWN SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY....

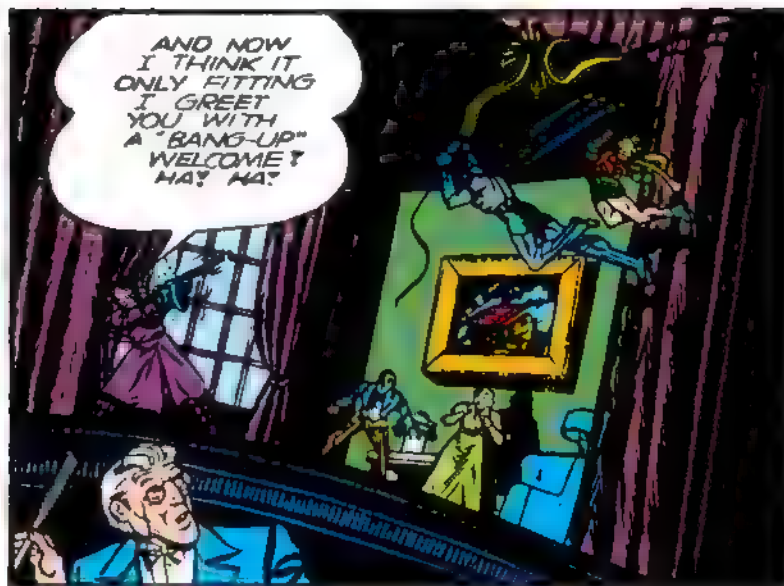
GOOD PLAY EH, JOHN! I HEAR THE VANDGILTS ARE LETTING THE ACTORS USE THE REAL VANDGILT DIAMONDS FOR TONIGHT'S OPENING PERFORMANCE.

GOOD PUBLICITY STUNT! HALF A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH O'BENS LENT BY THE PEOPLE CONCERNED IN THE PLAY!

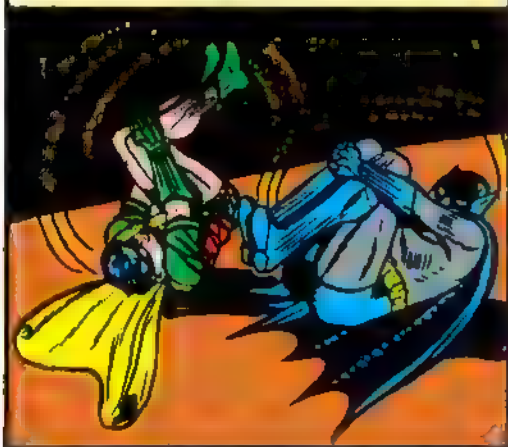
VERY INTERESTING.....







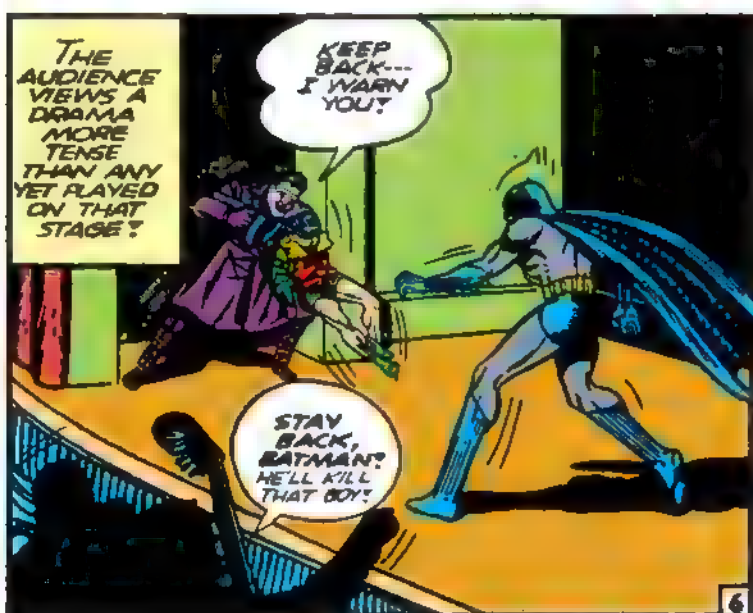
THEIR TRAINED BODIES CUSHION THE PLUNGE WITH THE OLD ACROBATIC STUNT OF ROLLING OVER AND OVER AS THEY HIT THE FLOOR?



EVEN AS ROBIN STARTS TO RISE, THE JOKER LEAPS FORWARD AND BAKES THE BOY'S HEAD WITH A SAVAGE BLOW?

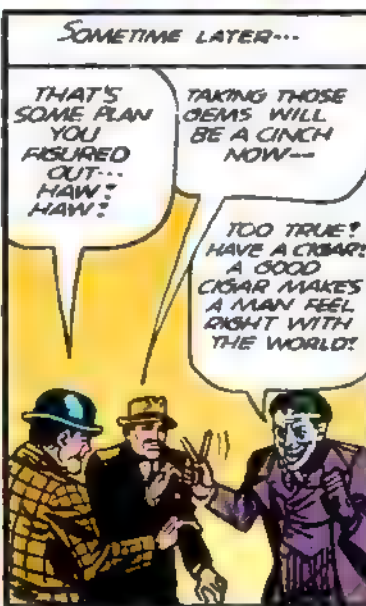
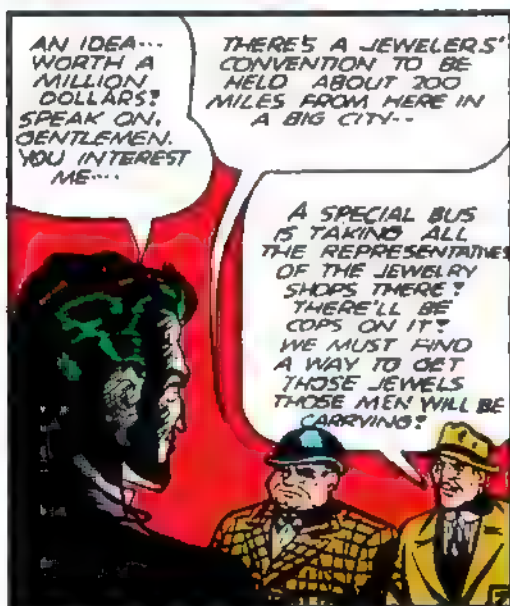
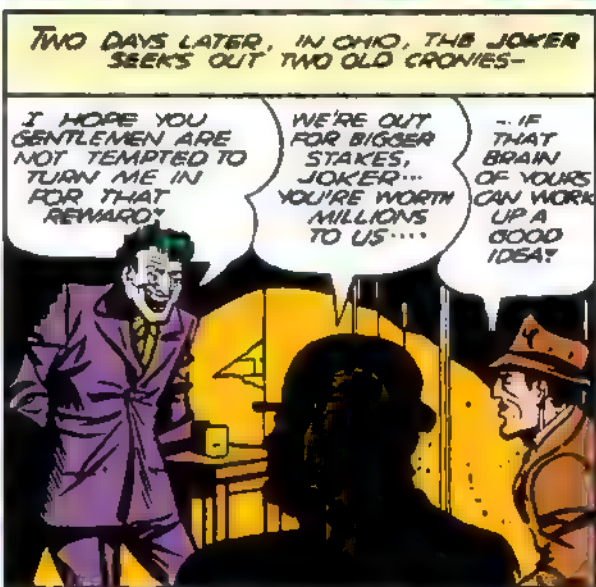
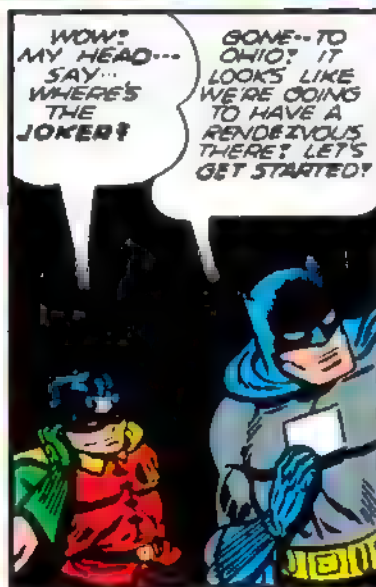
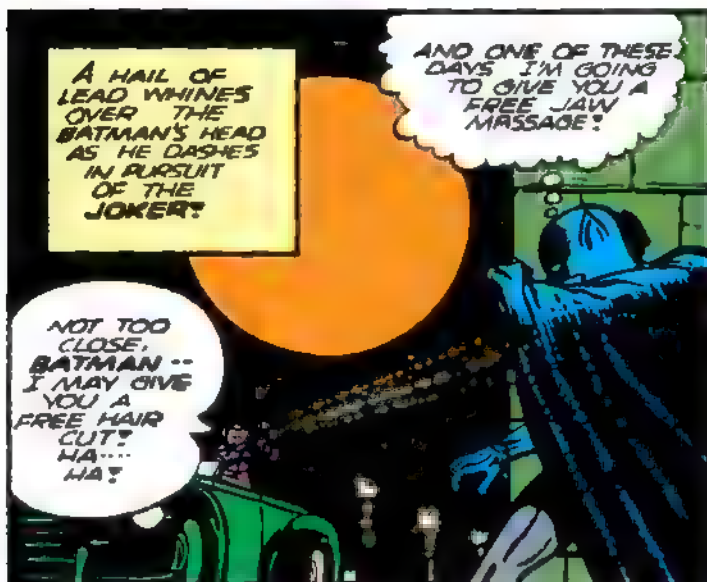


AH--AH? STAY BACK, BATMAN! ONE FALSE MOVE FROM YOU OR ANYBODY HERE, AND THIS BOY DIES?



THEN AS THE JOKER REACHES THE DOORWAY, HE ACTS SWIFTLY-- HE HURLS ROBIN FORWARD.





WILDER AND STILL WILDER GROWS THE LAUGHTER. SUDDENLY, ONE MAN GASPS CONVULSIVELY AND CLUTCHES AT HIS THROAT.



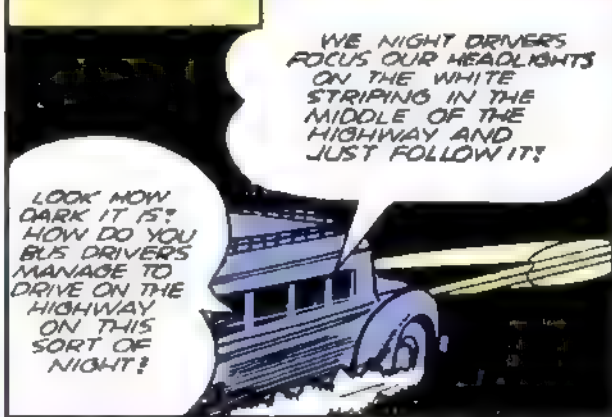
HIS BODY SINKS TO THE FLOOR, LIPS FREEZING INTO A TERRIBLE JOKERS GRIN.



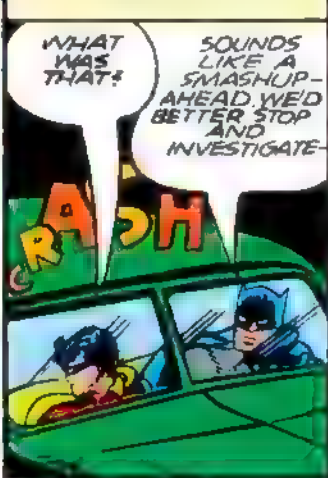
AND THAT NIGHT...A MAN TOILS TIRELESSLY ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY...



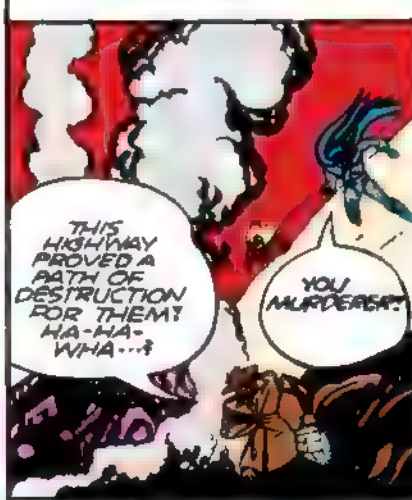
SOME DISTANCE BACK, A SPECIALLY CHARTERED JEWELER'S CONVENTION BUS HURTTLES THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT!

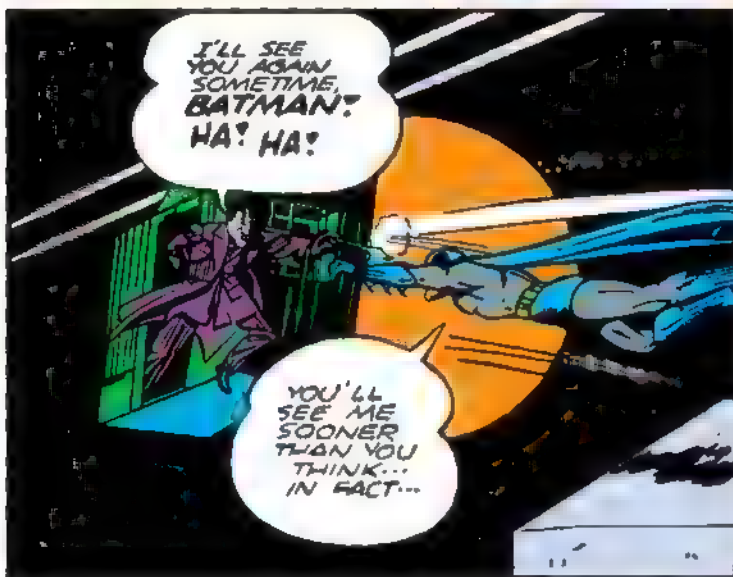
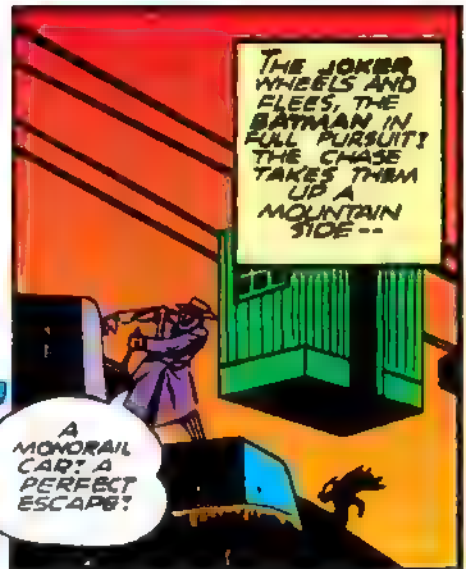


A REVERBERATING CRASH REACHES THE EARS OF THE TWO OCCUPANTS OF ANOTHER CAR ON THE SAME HIGHWAY!



TWO MANTLED SHAPES DROP DOWN TOWARD A MAN WHO BENDS OVER THE TWISTED WRECKAGE!





THEN--

WHAT--?
THE CAR'S
MOVING THE
OTHER WAY--
BACK WHERE
IT STARTED?

YOU'LL
DROP
RIGHT
INTO MY
HANDS
NOW, JOKER!

THE ANSWER: ROBIN
HAS RECOVERED FROM
THE GAS AND PULLED
THE SWITCH THAT
WILL SEND THE CAR
BACK--WITH THE JOKER
IN IT!



LATER--THEY FIND
THE THIRD CLUE:

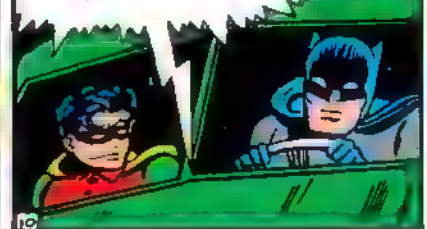
KANSAS, EH? IF
THAT'S THE JOKER'S NEXT
MOVE, IT'S OURS.
TOO?

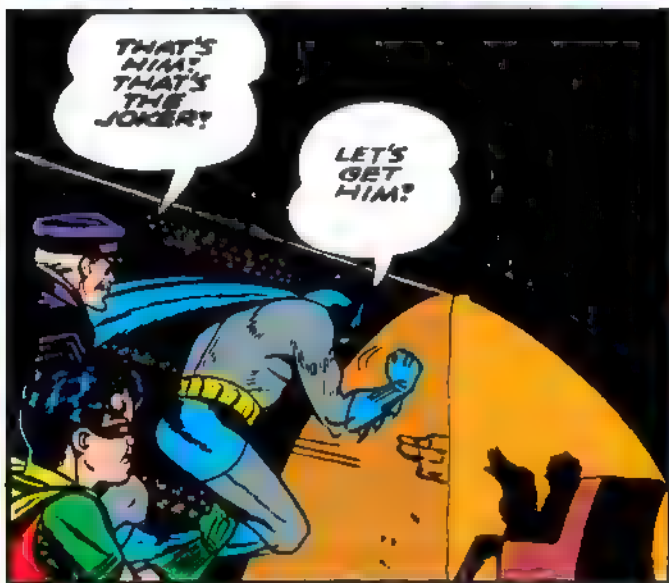
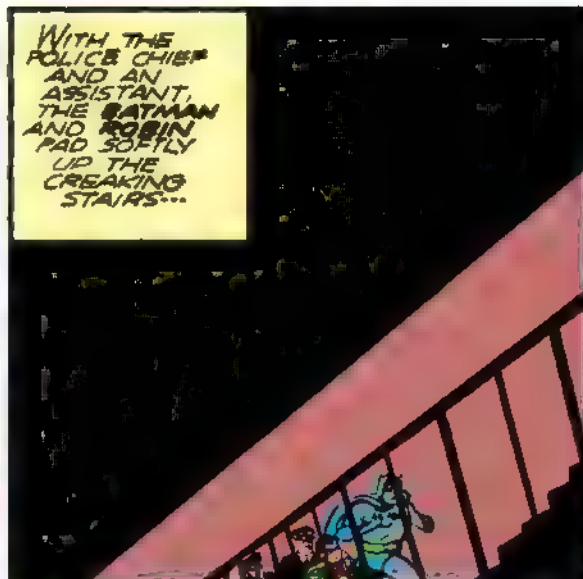
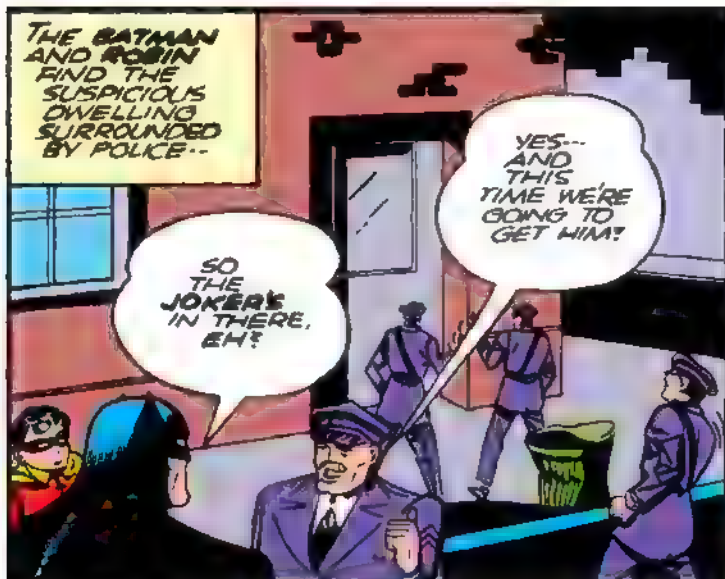
THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS
THRU STATE AFTER STATE
ON THE TRAIL OF THE
ELUSIVE JOKER!



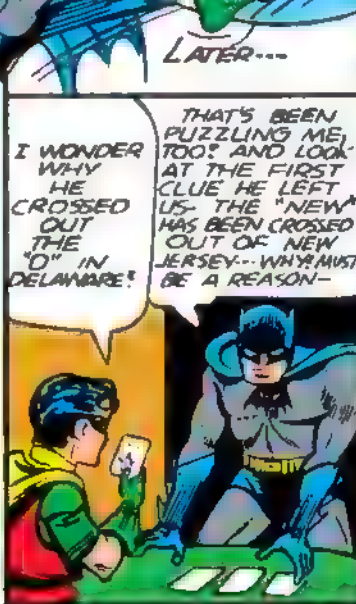
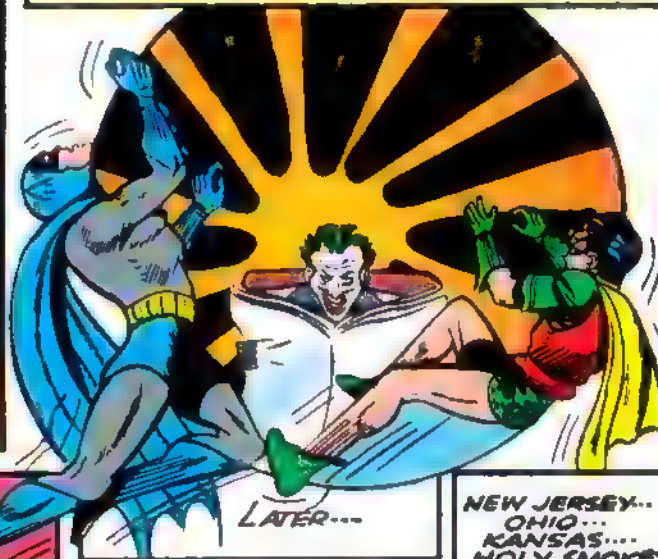
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN
CLING TO THE TRAIL
WHEN STARTLING WORDS
SNAP THEM UPRIGHT--

CALLING ALL
CARS? THE
JOKER HAS BEEN
SEEN ENTERING A
HOUSE ON
2255 CONCOURSE
AVE.





BUT AS THE MEN SPRING ON THE SEATED FIGURE-- A SUDDEN BLINDING FLASH-- AND AN INVISIBLE HAND HURLS THEM BACK TO SHOCKED UNCONSCIOUSNESS ON THE FLOOR!



THE BATMAN WRITES A LIST OF THE CLUES....

LOOK WHAT THE LETTERS OF EACH STATE SPELL OUT AFTER WE CROSS OUT "NEW" AND THE "O" OF DELAWARE!

JERSEY IS "J" ... THEN "O" ... "K" ... "E" ... WHY, THEY START TO SPELL OUT THE JOKER'S NAME...

New Jersey
Ohio
Kansas
Delaware

AND ADD THE "R" OF RHODE ISLAND. THAT BOOTISTICAL MANIAC HAS SPELLED HIS NAME ACROSS THE COUNTRY. INSTEAD OF GOING TO DELAWARE AS HE EXPECTS US TO---

I KNOW-- WE'RE GOING TO RHODE ISLAND. WE'LL BE ONE JUMP AHEAD OF HIM--

New Jersey
Ohio
Kansas
Delaware
Rhode Island!

TWO DAYS LATER--

HA! HA! "I. NAMTAB WILL STOP AT THE FRAY HOTEL AT PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND. NAMTAB IT IS RUMORED HAS WITH HIM THE JOKER'S DIAMOND, ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD..."

PROVIDENCE, EH-- I'LL BE THERE AND AWAY BEFORE THE BATMAN-- THE DIAMOND IS MINE!

FRAY HOTEL-- THE JOKER'S KNUCKLES RAP SHARPLY ON J. NAMTAB'S DOOR--

COME IN!

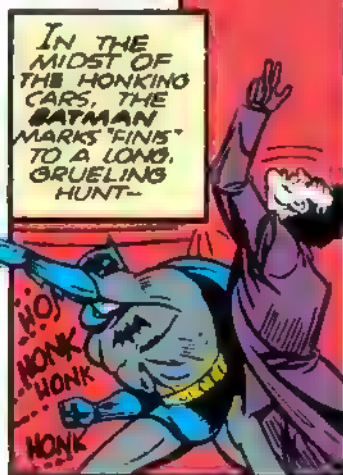
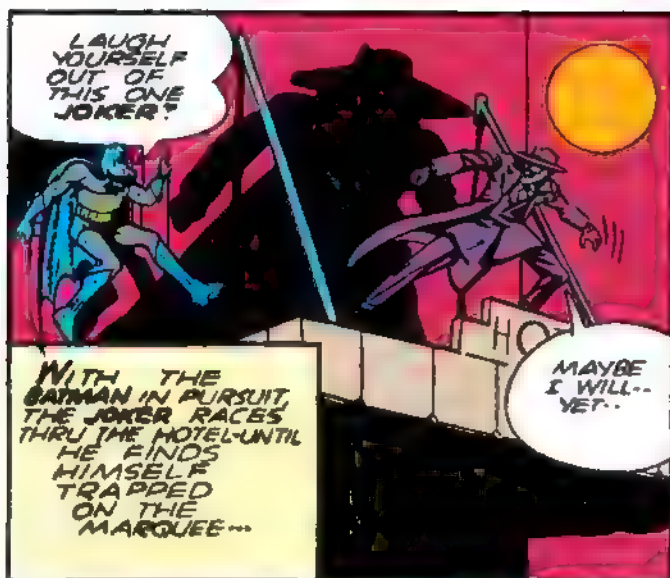
YOU? THE BATMAN?

ALSO I. NAMTAB... BATMAN REVERSED. I KNEW IF I USED A DIAMOND AS BAIT IN THE NEWSPAPER, YOU'D BITE-- AND YOU DID?

I'M NOT CAUGHT YET, BATMAN! NOT YET!

BUT YOU SOON WILL BE BROTHER-- YOU SOON WILL BE!

YOU LITTLE BRAT-- GET OUT OF MY WAY!





No. 59

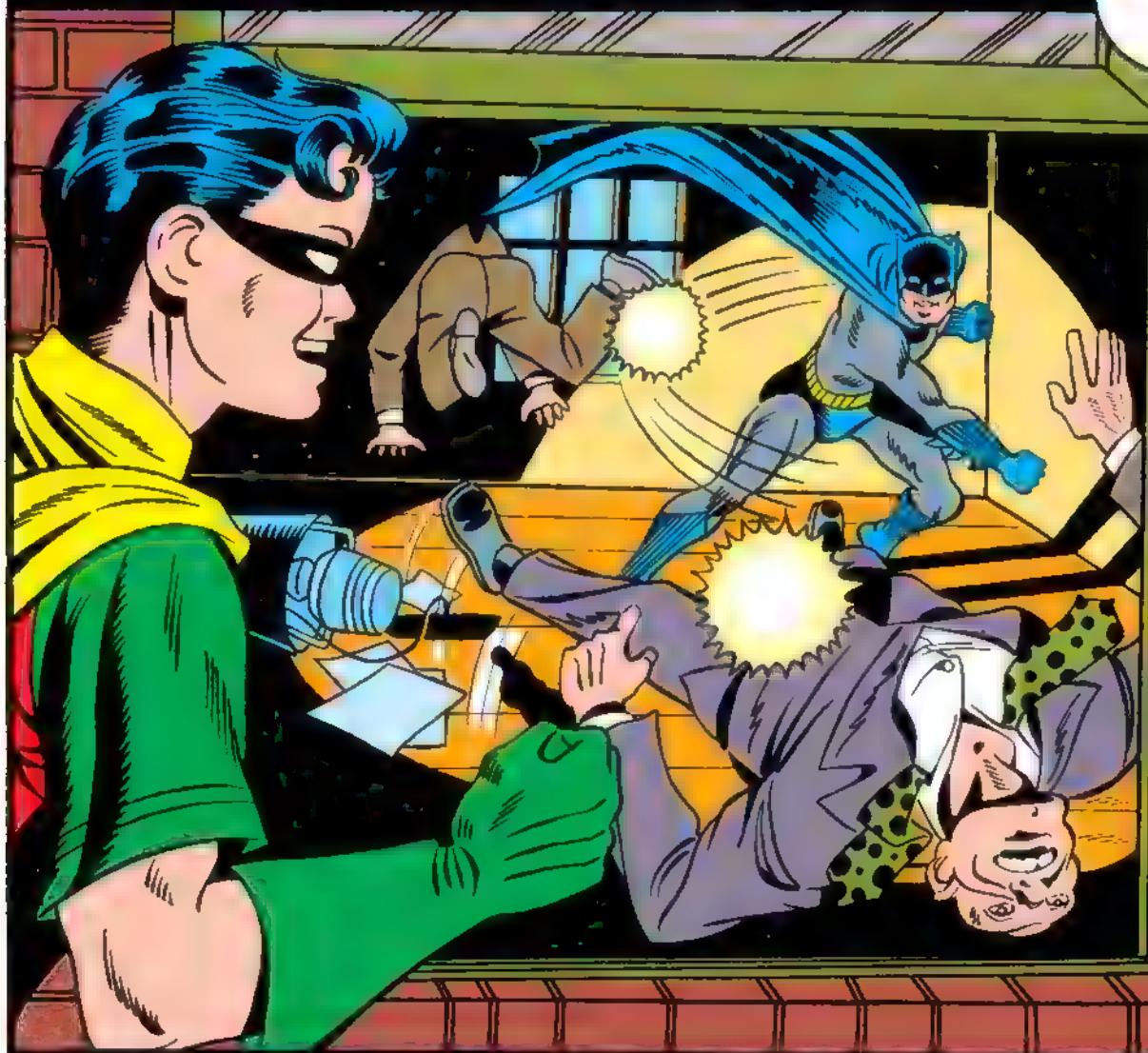


IND

The BATMAN

Detective COMICS

JAN.



BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN

ONCE AGAIN AN EERIE
SHAPE THROWS LENGTHENING
SHADOWS THAT CUT A
CRIMINAL SWATH ACROSS
A CONTINENT-- THE
PENGUIN HAS RETURNED!

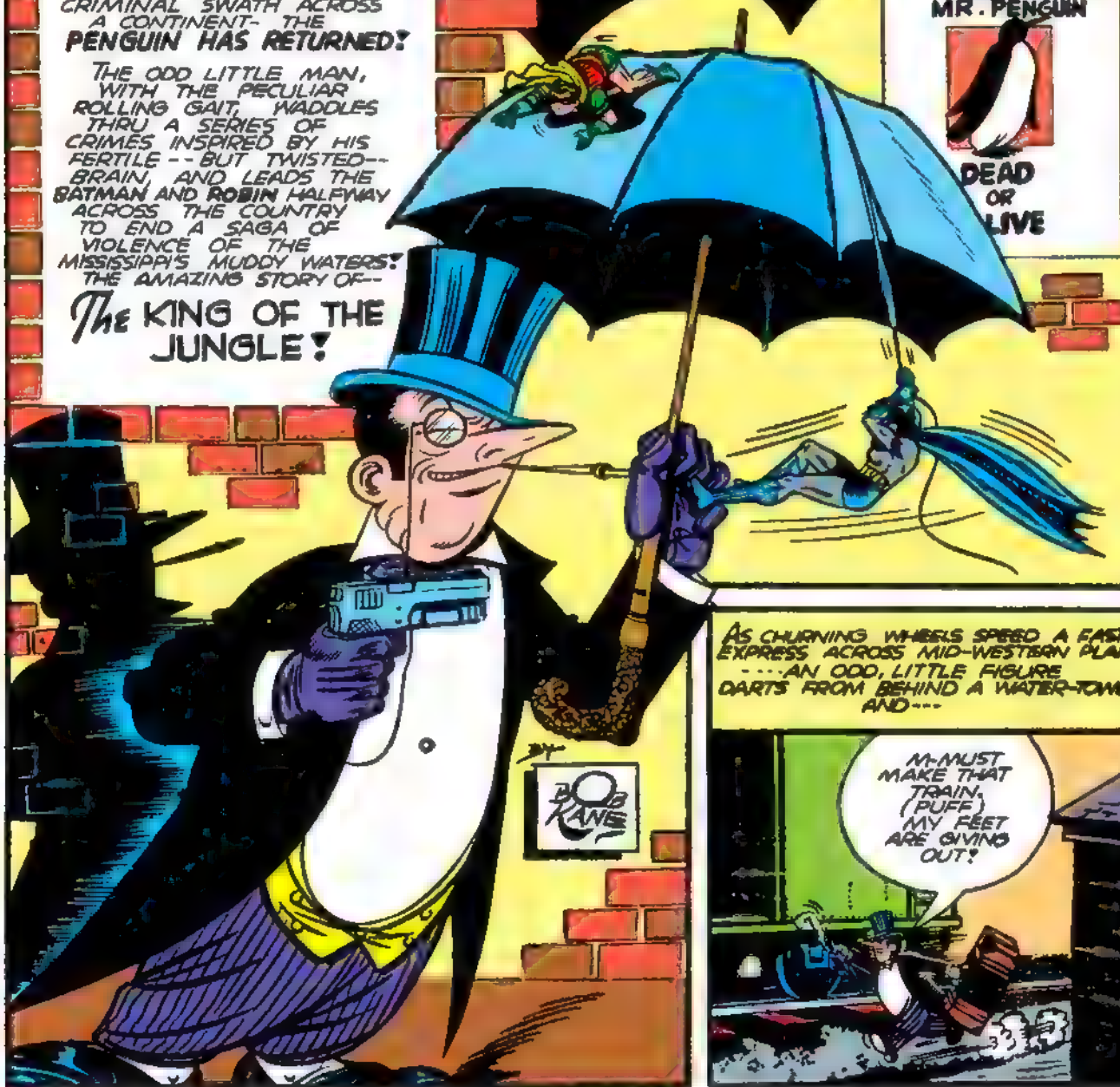
THE ODD LITTLE MAN,
WITH THE PECULIAR
ROLLING GAIT, WADDLES
THRU A SERIES OF
CRIMES INSPIRED BY HIS
FERTILE -- BUT TWISTED--
BRAIN, AND LEADS THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN HALFWAY
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
TO END A SAGA OF
VIOLENCE OF THE
MISSISSIPPI'S MUDDY WATERS!
THE AMAZING STORY OF--

*The KING OF THE
JUNGLE!*

**WANTED
MR. PENGUIN**



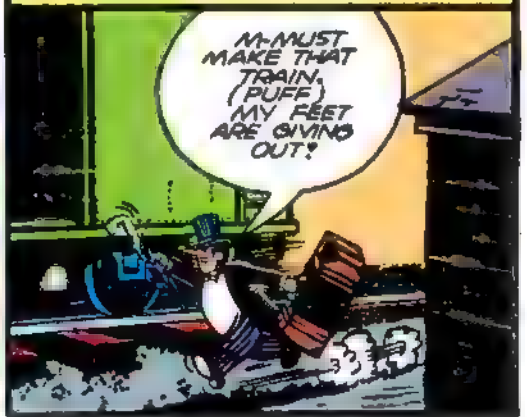
**DEAD
OR
ALIVE**



BOB
KANE

AS CHURNING WHEELS SPEED A FAST
EXPRESS ACROSS MID-WESTERN PLAINS
---AN ODD, LITTLE FIGURE
DARTS FROM BEHIND A WATER-TOWER
AND---

M-MUST
MAKE THAT
TRAIN,
(PUFF)
MY FEET
ARE GIVING
OUT!





HAVE
MADE
IT,
B' JOVE!

SURPRISINGLY NIMBLE, IN SPITE OF
HIS FAT, THE ODD LITTLE MAN SWINGS
HIMSELF INTO THE BOX CAR--

WELL--WELL--
AND I THOUGHT
THESE WERE
PRIVATE
ACCOMMODATIONS?

SMART EH?
WHAT'S
YOUR
MONIKER,
FATTY?



NAME CALLING ISN'T
NICE! SUPPOSE I TELL
YOU YOUR--ER MONIKERS!
YOU'RE LEFTY LARRY,
WANTED FOR MURDER?
AND YOU'RE MIKE THE
TRAMP, WANTED FOR
ARSON AND--



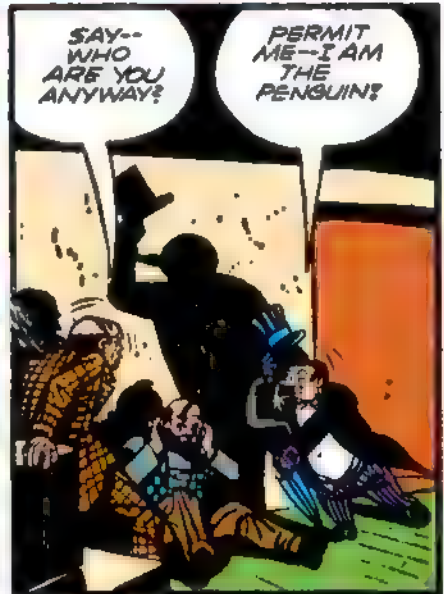
I'LL
TEAR
'IM
APART--
YEEOW!

TSK TSK?
I'M SORRY--
BUT REALLY
I DON'T WANT
TO BE TORN
APART--



SAY--
WHO
ARE YOU
ANYWAY?

PERMIT
ME--I AM
THE
PENGUIN!



TH--THE
PENGUIN
BOY? HE'S
A REAL
BIG
SHOT?

OH, YEAH?
WHADABOUT
ME? AIN'T
THERE A TEN
GRAND REWARD
OUT FOR
ME?



TEN GRAND?
HUH? THATS
CHICKENFEED?
WHY, THE
COPS WILL
GIVE FIFTEEN
GRAND
FOR ME?

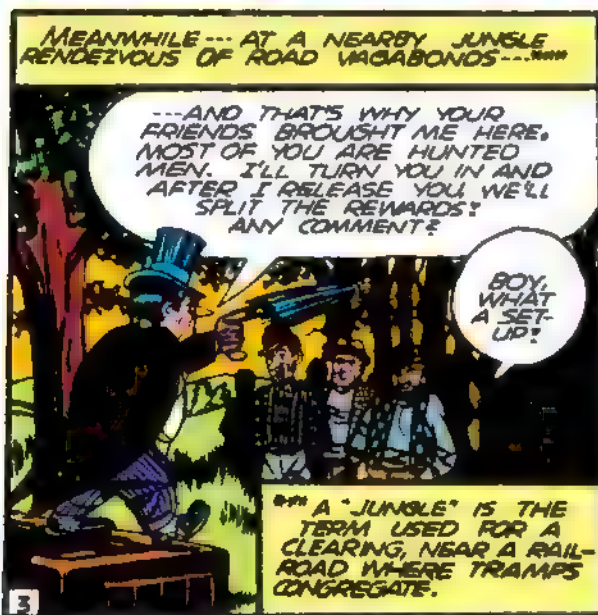
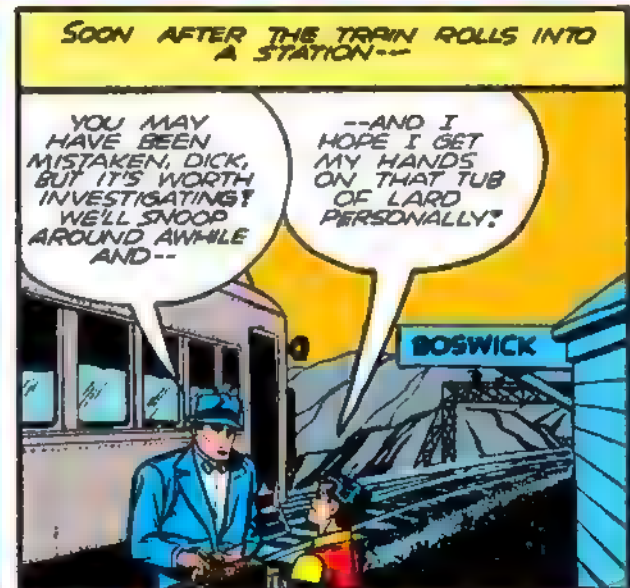
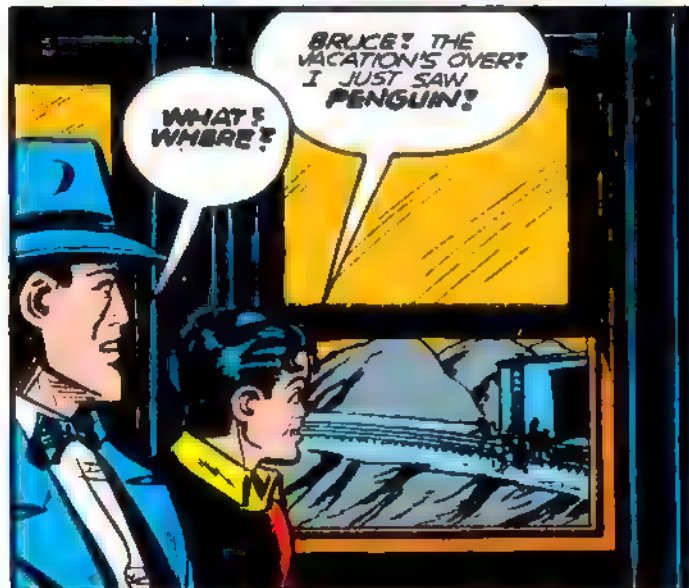
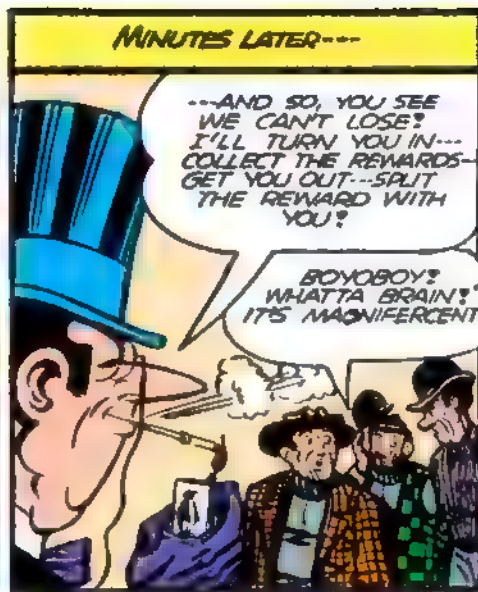
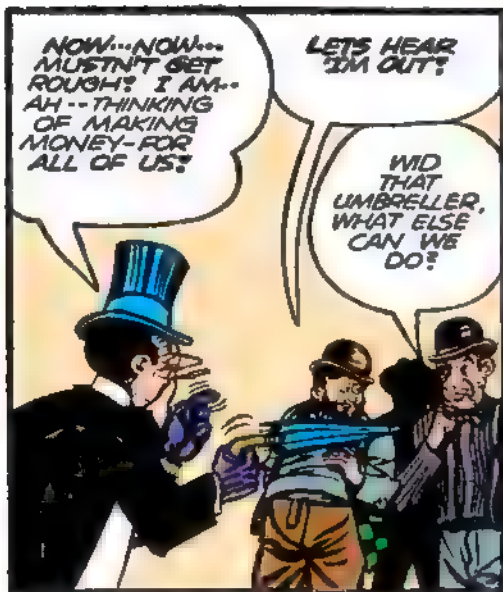
I GOT
YA BOTH
BEAT--
LEMMIE
TELL
YOU--

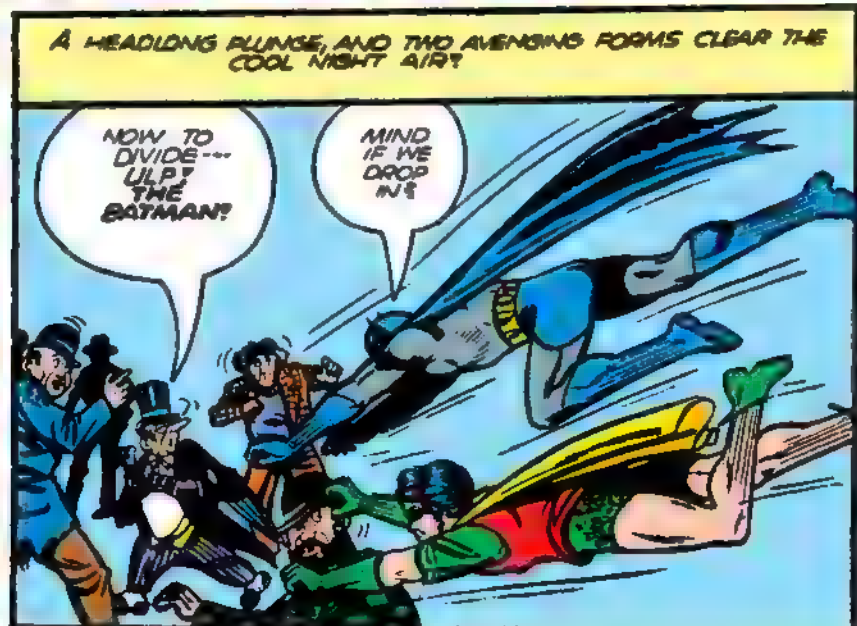
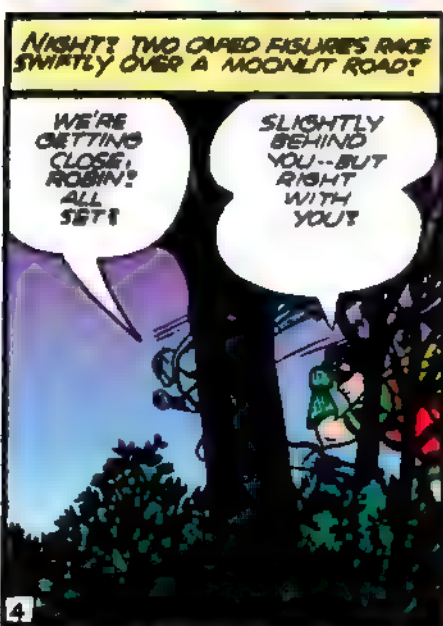
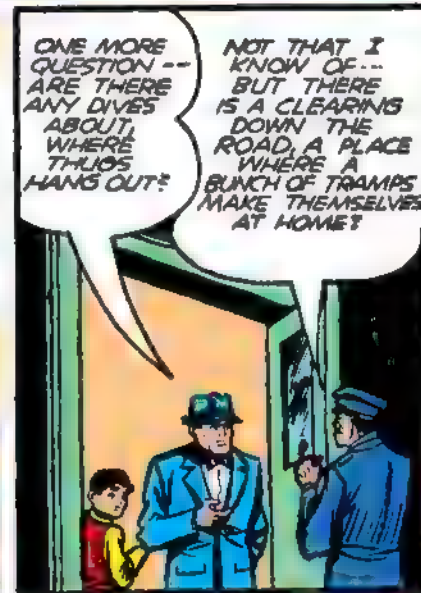
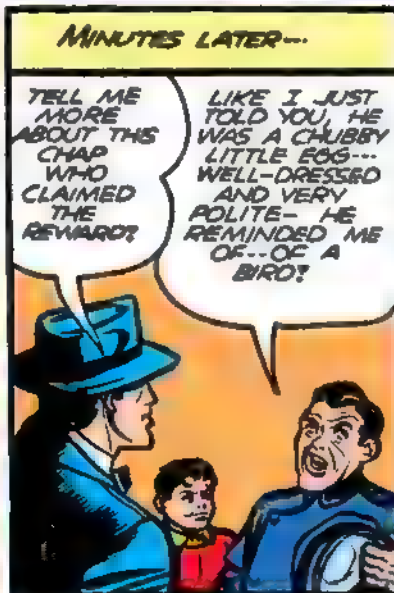
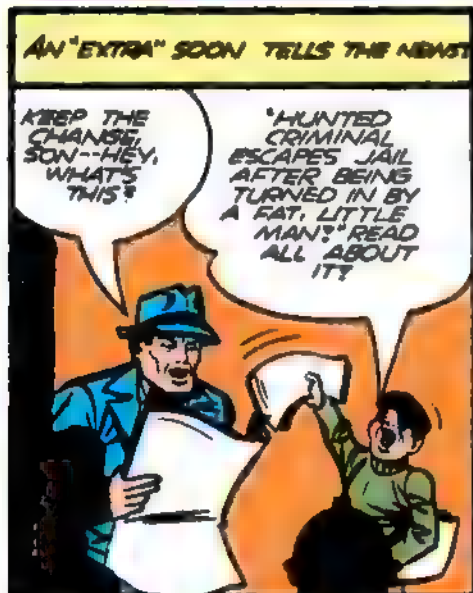


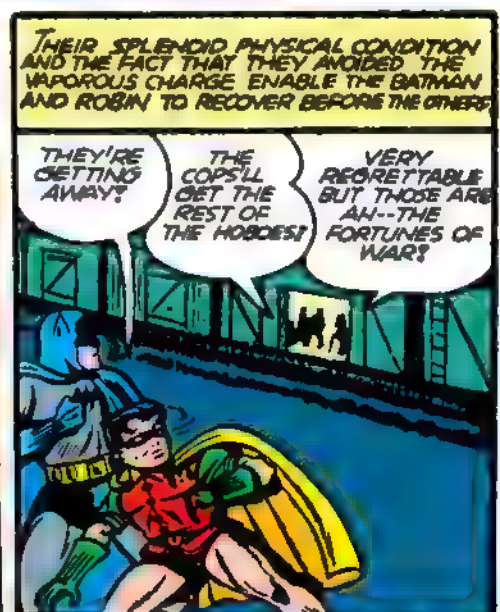
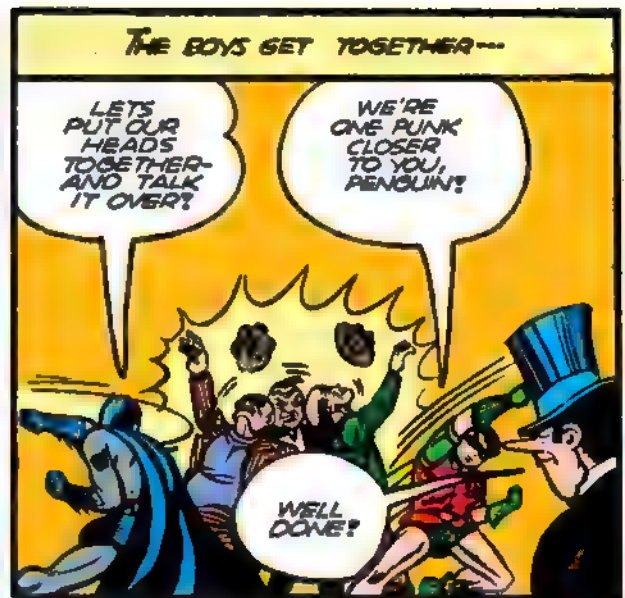
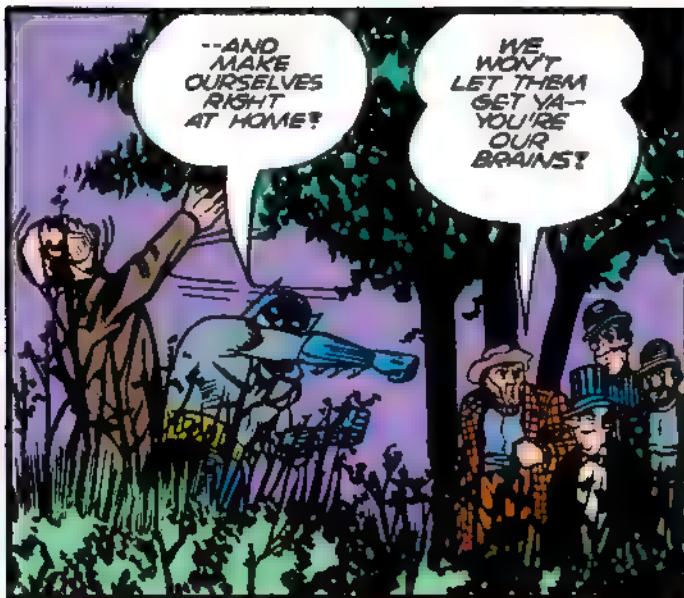
HMMM--
WHOEVER
TURNED YOU
LADS IN TO
THE AUTHORITIES
WOULD REALIZE
A NICE PIECE
OF--ER--
CHANGE?

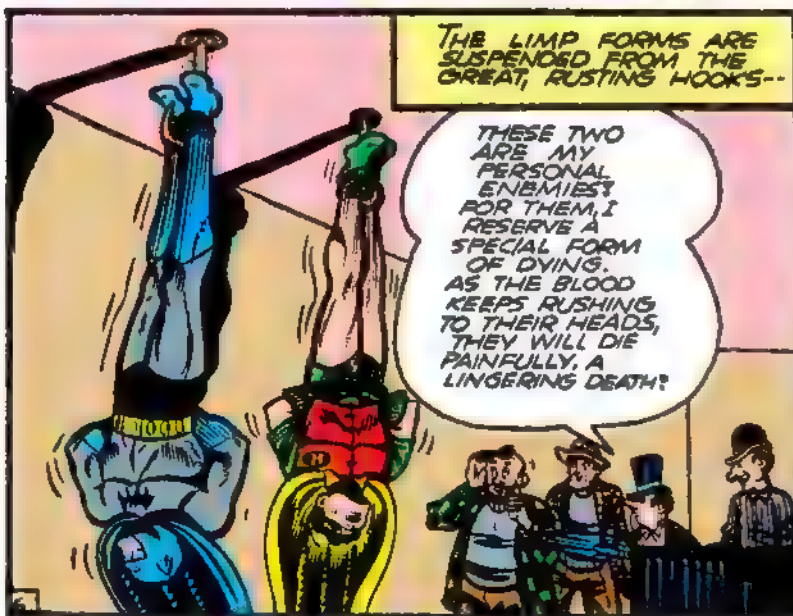
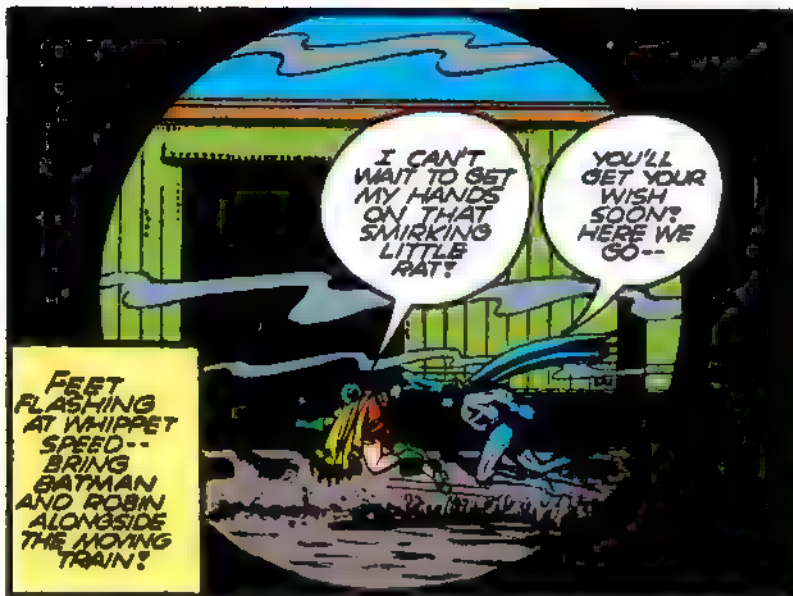
JUSSA
MINUTE,
PENGUIN?
YOU
AIN'T
GONNA--



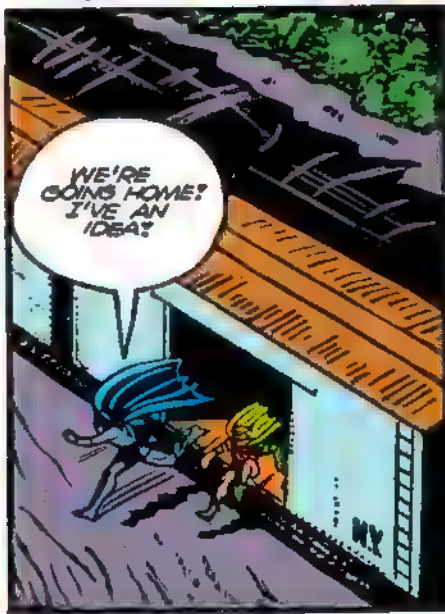
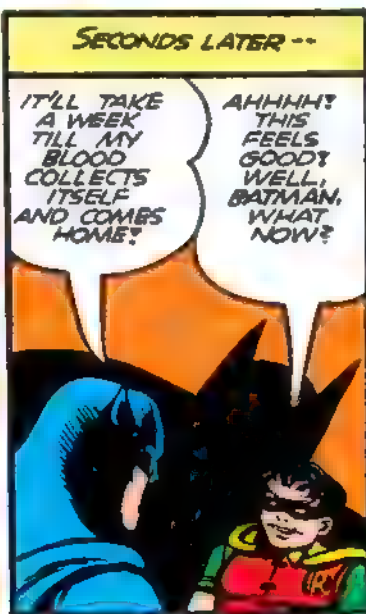
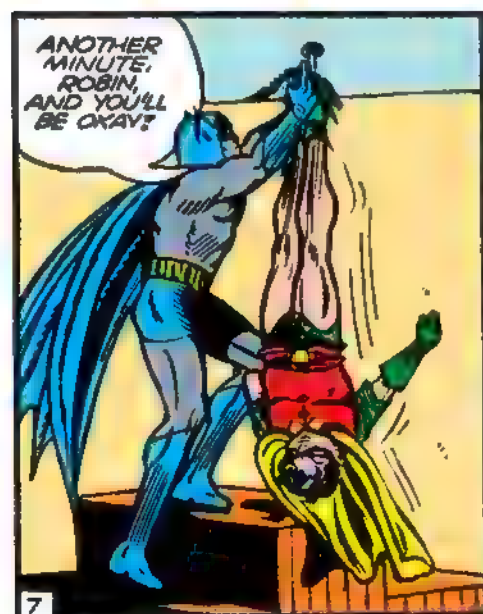
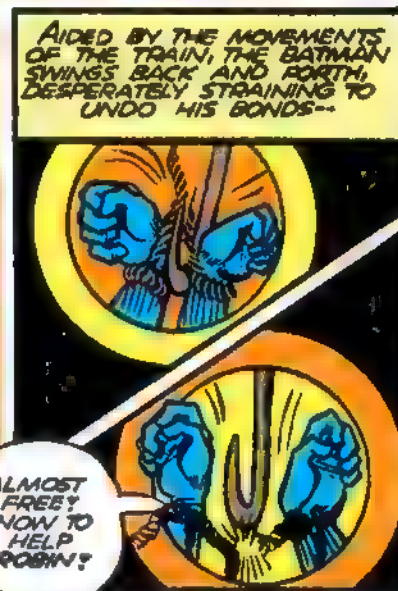
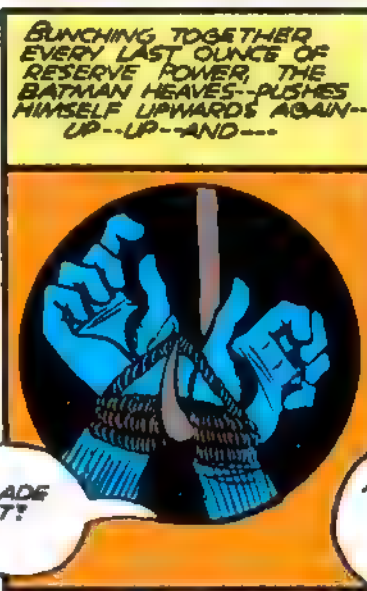
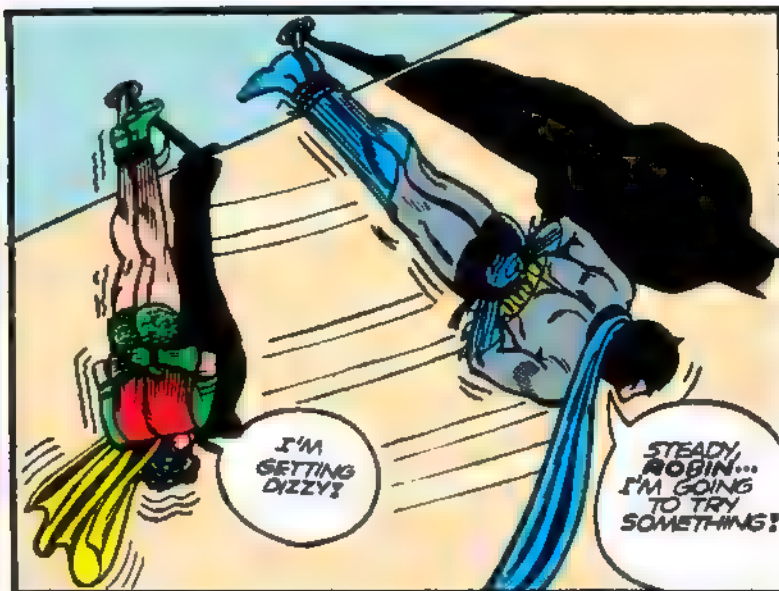
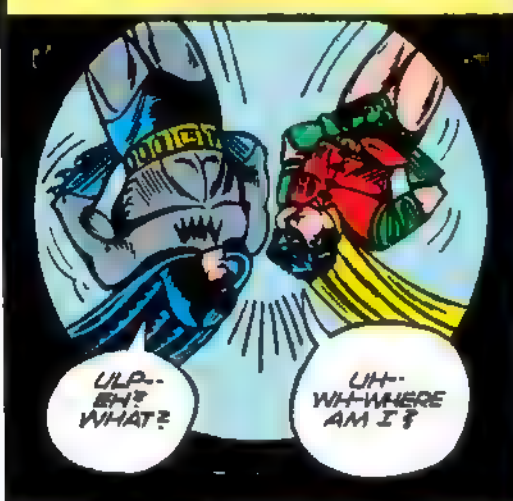


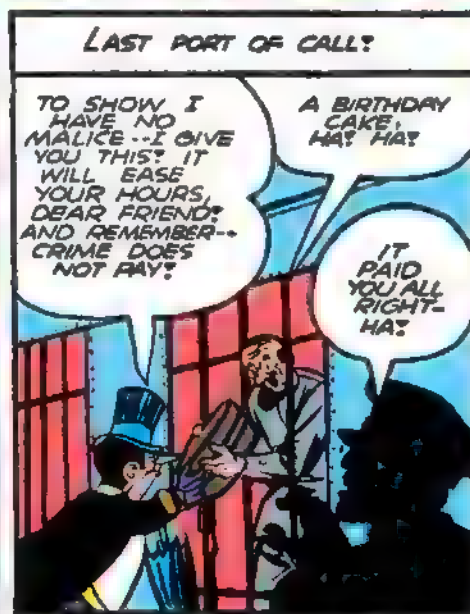
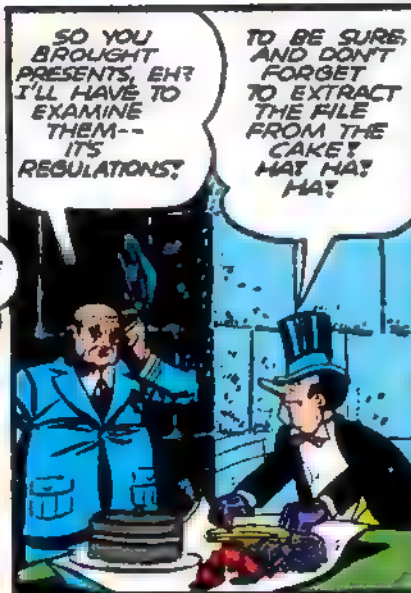
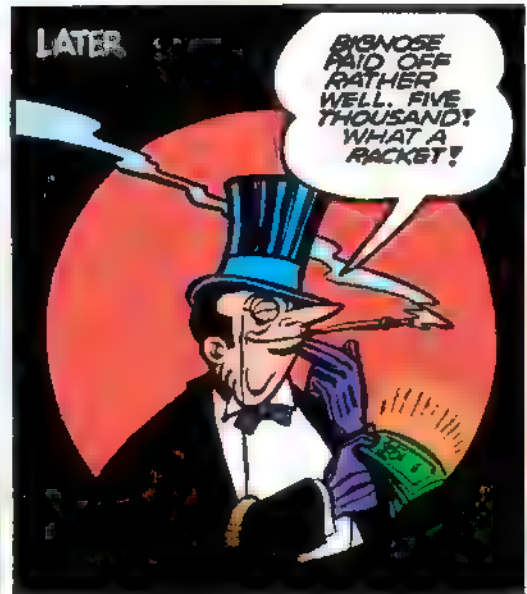
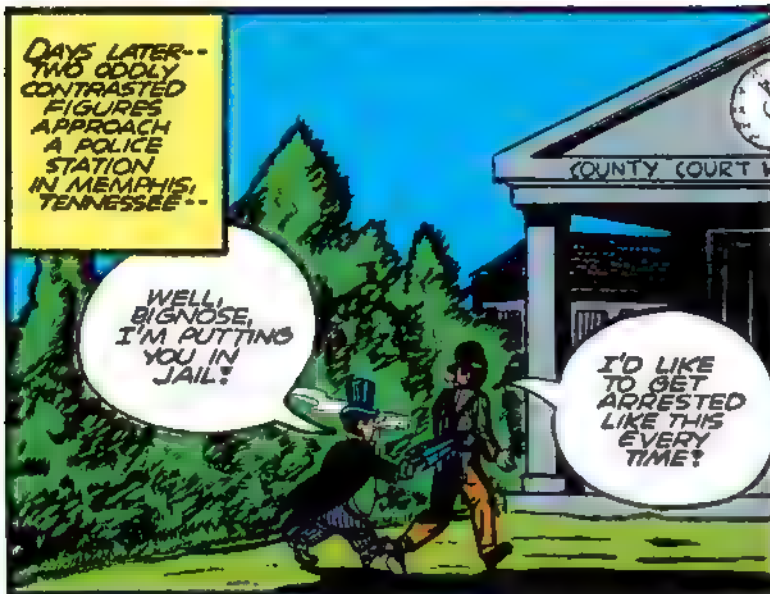




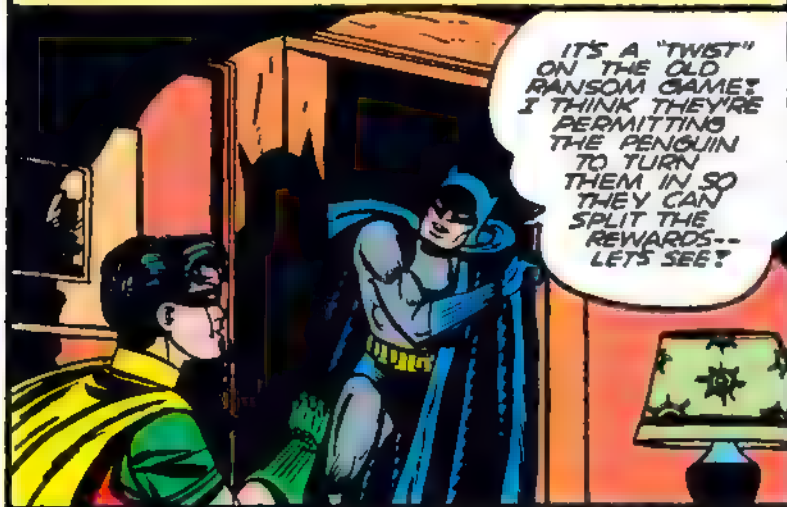


SOON AFTER, AS THE TRAIN LURCHES AROUND A BEND, TWO SWINGING BODIES COLLIDE?



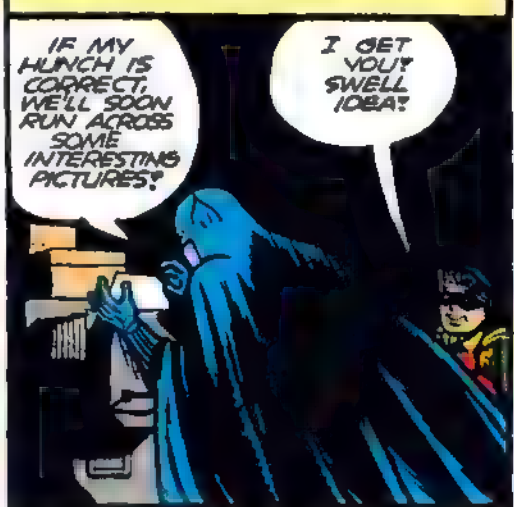


AT THAT MOMENT--BATMAN PRESSES A HIDDEN BUTTON IN HIS HOME---



IT'S A "TWIST" ON THE OLD RANSOM GAME! I THINK THEY'RE PERMITTING THE PENGUIN TO TURN THEM IN SO THEY CAN SPLIT THE REWARDS-- LET'S SEE?

INSIDE HIS SECRET LABORATORY, THE BATMAN LOOKS AT HIS PERSONAL ROGUE'S GALLERY?



IF MY HUNCH IS CORRECT, WE'LL SOON RUN ACROSS SOME INTERESTING PICTURES?

I GET YOU! SWELL IDEA!



JUST AS I THOUGHT! HERE'S THE STORY, ROBIN!

THE BATMAN'S GLOVED HAND PLACES THREE PICTURES IN AN ENLARGING CAMERA?



WOW! WELL-- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

BRONCO
WANTED IN MEMPHIS
MIKE THE TRAMP
WANTED IN ARKANSAS
LOST YOUR
WANTED IN TEXAS

LATER--



IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY! MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS, TEXAS! WHERE WILL THEY STRIKE NEXT?

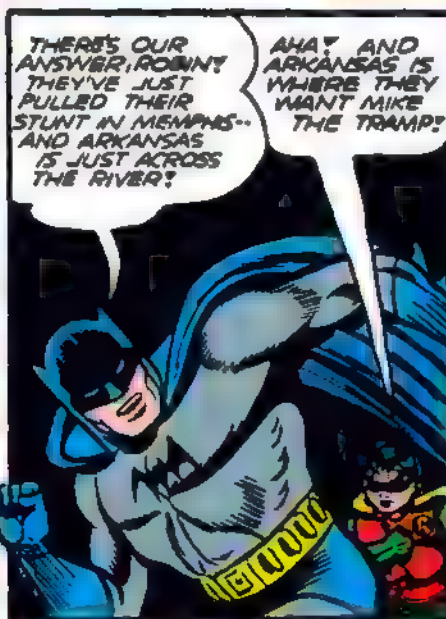
I'LL GET SOME MUSIC-- MAYBE IT'LL CLEAR OUR HEADS.

WE NOW BRING YOU A SPEECH BY---



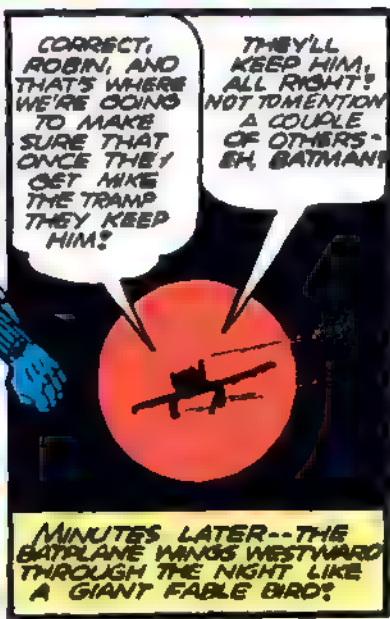
--NEWS FLASH? BRONCO MURPHY, THE KILLER WHO WAS CAPTURED IN MEMPHIS EARLY THIS MORNING SAWED THROUGH HIS CELL BARS AND ESCAPED! ...

LISTEN!



THERE'S OUR ANSWER, ROBIN! THEY'VE JUST PULLED THEIR STUNT IN MEMPHIS-- AND ARKANSAS IS JUST ACROSS THE RIVER?

AHA! AND ARKANSAS IS WHERE THEY WANT MIKE THE TRAMP?



CORRECT, ROBIN, AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT ONCE THEY GET MIKE THE TRAMP THEY KEEP HIM!

THEY'LL KEEP HIM, ALL RIGHT! NOT TO MENTION A COUPLE OF OTHERS-- EH, BATMAN?

MINUTES LATER--THE BATPLANE WINGS WESTWARD THROUGH THE NIGHT LIKE A GIANT FABLE BIRD?

AS THE BATPLANE BULLETS
THROUGH THE AIR--THE
COLD, GREY STREAMS OF
DAWN OUTLINE A CAR
THAT SKIDS TO A HALT?



ALL SET,
PETE, FOR
YOUR-ER--
JAILING?

ALL SET,
MR. PENGUIN?
IN AN' OUT
LIKE A
REVOLVIN'
DOOR?

MINUTES LATER--

GOOD-BYE,
SIR, AND
WITH THE
MONEY GO
MY CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU'VE DONE
A REMARKABLE
PIECE OF
WORK?

I HAVE
A SLIGHT
PREMONITION
THAT WE SHALL
MEET AGAIN?



SAY--
YOU LOOK
ILL--
WHAT'S
WRONG?

WELL--
AH--
SINCE
I HAVE
TAKEN
THIS
MONEY--



--IT IS
FAIR THAT
I GIVE YOU
SOMETHING
IN RETURN?
DUCK,
PETE?

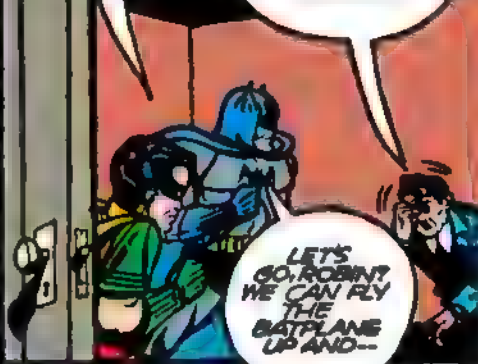
AHHH?
MY
EYES?

UGH?

A MOMENT LATER--

GOSH?
WHAT
HAPPENED?

LITTLE
MAN--
BLINDED
ME--TEAR
GAS--TOOK
PRISONER
UPSTAIRS--



LET'S
GO, ROBIN?
WE CAN FLY
THE
BATPLANE
UP AND--

MEANWHILE--



WHO
ARE--
UGH?

LOADING
ONE'S UMBRELLA
HANDLE WITH
LEAD MAKES
THINGS--AH--
SIMPLER?

HALFWAY
TO THE
BATPLANE,
A HAIL
OF HOT
LEAD
SHOWERS
THE BATMAN
AND
ROBIN?



HAVE!
LOOKA
THEM
JUMP?

YOU
BLITHERING
IDIOT--YOU
MISSED?
NOW WE'LL
HAVE
TO JUMP?

DOWN,
ROBIN?
DOWN?



LOOK! THEY'RE LEAVING FOR THAT CAR!

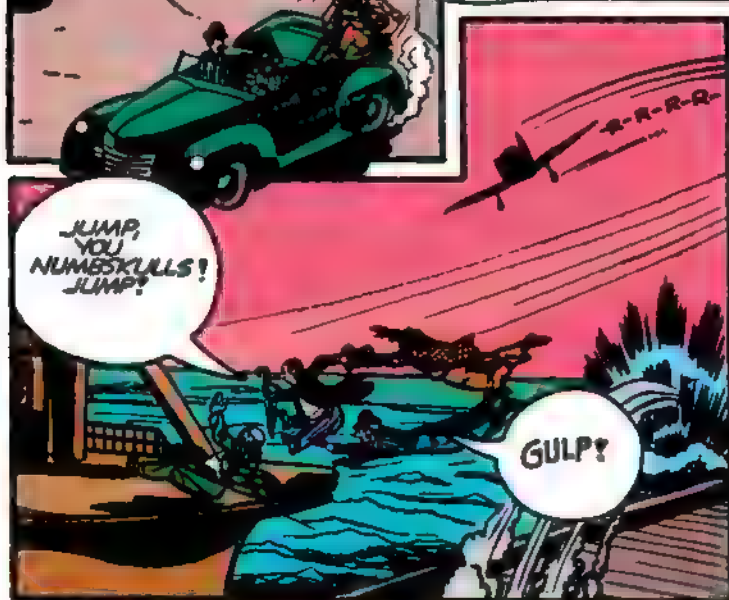
INTO THE BATPLANE-- THE TRAIL DRAWS TO AN END?

TWO SETS OF MOTORS COUGH TO SUDDEN LIFE--AND THE CHASE IS ON!

STEP ON THAT GAS? MORON! THAT BOAT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

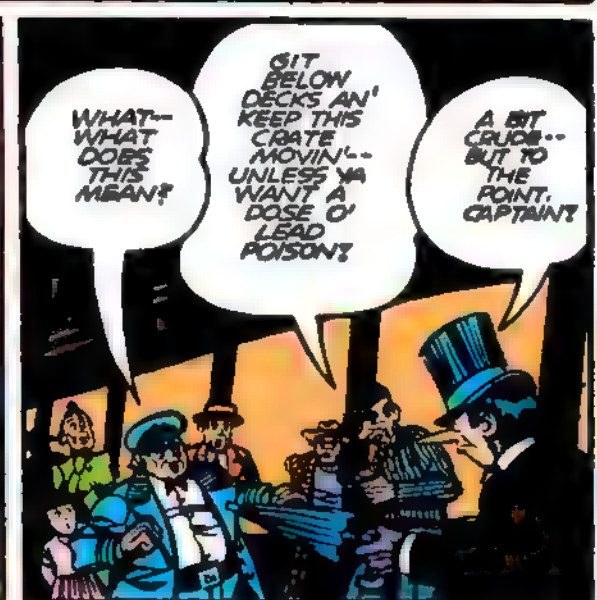
HEAD FOR THE BOAT, ROBIN! I'VE AN IDEA!

AH, ME? TOO BAD I HAVEN'T MORE LEISURE TO ENJOY THE SCENERY!



JUMP, YOU NUMBSKULLS! JUMP!

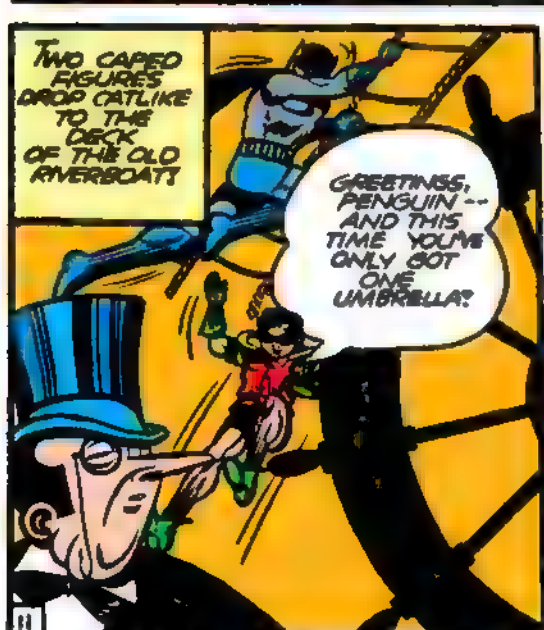
GULP!



WHAT-- WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

GET BELOW DECKS AN' KEEP THIS CRATE MOVIN'-- UNLESS YA WANT A DOSE O' LEAD POISON!

A BIT CRUDE-- BUT TO THE POINT, CAPTAIN!



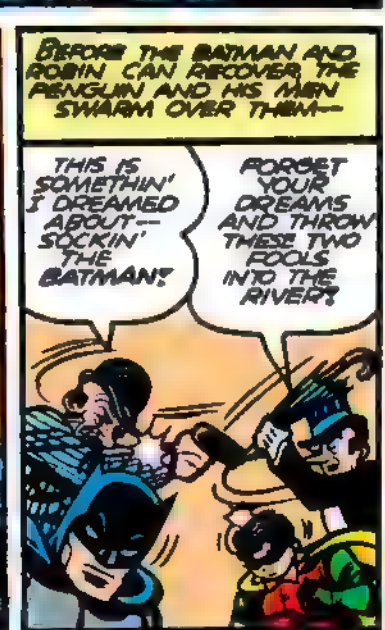
TWO CAPED FIGURES DROP CATLIKE TO THE DECK OF THE OLD RIVERBOAT!

GREETINGS, PENGUIN-- AND THIS TIME YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE UMBRELLA!



NO HOLDS BARRED, PENGUIN-- HERE I COME-- UGH!

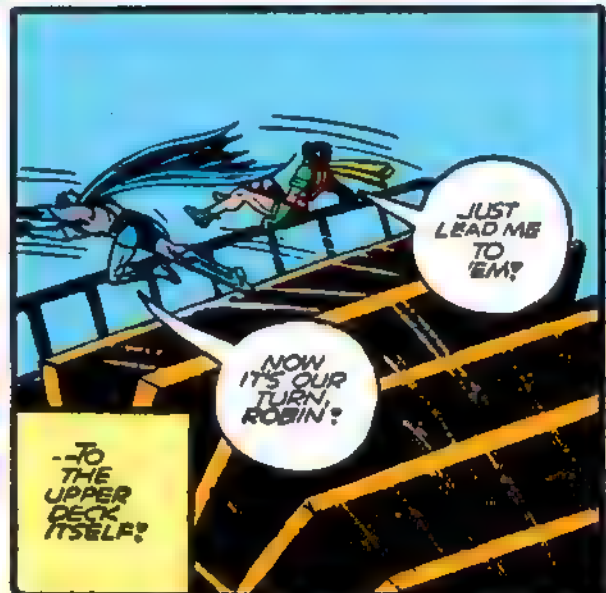
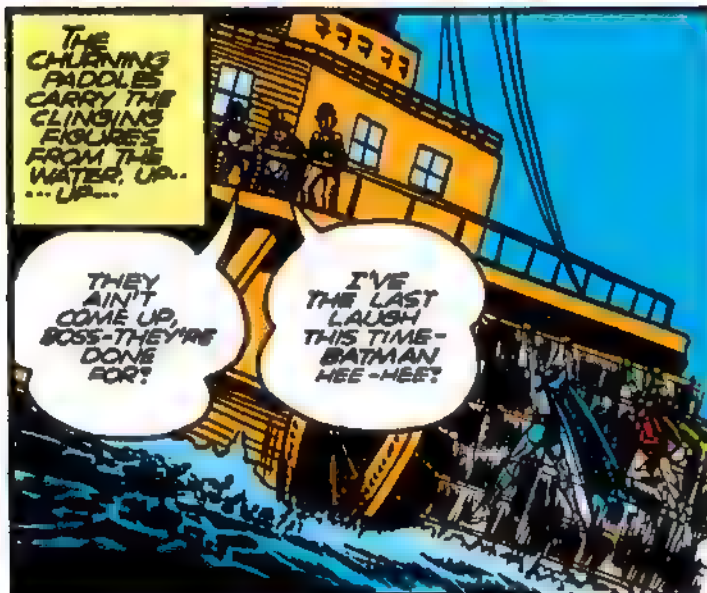
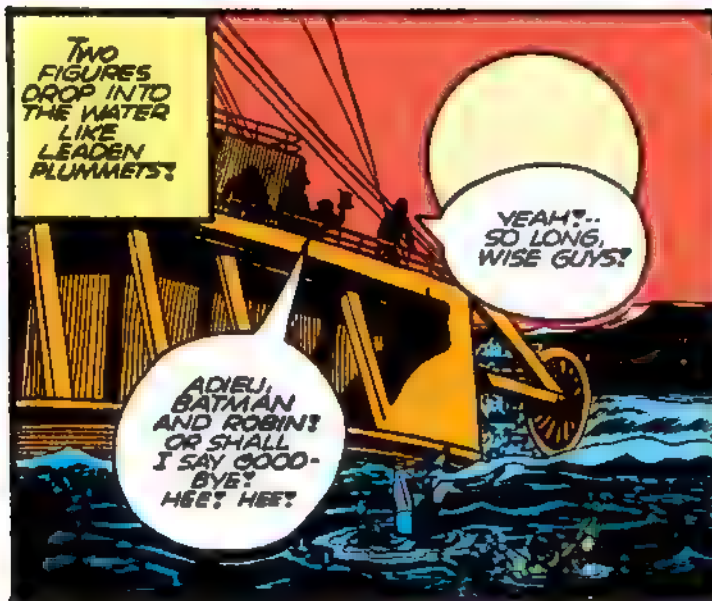
PRECISELY, LITTLE MAN! BETWEEN US, NOTHING IS BARRED!



BEFORE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CAN RECOVER, THE PENGUIN AND HIS MEN SWARM OVER THEM--

THIS IS SOMETHIN' I DREAMED ABOUT-- SOCKIN' THE BATMAN!

FORGET YOUR DREAMS AND THROW THESE TWO FOOLS INTO THE RIVER!



A GLEAMING, NEEDLE-POINTED BLADE
SWINGS A VICIOUS DEATH-
DEALING ARC!

PARDON
ME WHILE
I DECAPITATE
YOU--
OOUFF?

PARDON
THE PUN,
BUT I'M SORT
OF ATTACHED
TO MY HEAD?
AH! THAT
MOP?

CURSE
YOUR
SLITHERING
FORM! CAN'T
YOU STAY
STILL?

RIGHT
WITH
YOU,
PENGUIN
OLD BOY?

HAVE AT YOU,
KNAVE--OH
OH--THIS
IS SERIOUS?

THE HOT
BREATH
OF DOOM
IS AT YOUR
THROAT,
BATMAN?

THE BATMAN'S HANDS
QUICKLY REVERSE THE
MOP AND--

HOT
BREATH,
EH? THIS
MOP WILL
CLEAN AWAY
SOME OF
YOUR
HOT AIR?

I WILL--
--ULP--
SPLUTTER--

BUT THOUGH JESTING
WORDS FILL THE AIR, GRIM
DEATH HOVERS CEASELESSLY
ABOUT

YOU
MISSED,
BIRDMAN?

--BUT I
WON'T?

I KNOW WHEN
I'M BEATEN,
BATMAN, AND
SINCE I CAN'T
MATCH YOUR
FISTICUFFS, THIS
IS THE ONLY
SOLUTION?

MINUTES TICK BY--BUT NO
SIGN OF THE PENGUIN?

LOOKED
ALL OVER--
NOT A
SIGN
OF THAT
LITTLE
MAN?

WELL, AT
LEAST WE
HAVE THESE
THUGS TO
TURN OVER TO
THE AUTHORITIES--
AND THIS TIME
THEY'LL STAY
PUT?

NIGHT--AS A BAT-LIKE
CRAFT WINGS ACROSS
THE RIVER BELOW--

WELL--THE
END OF THIS
CASE--AND
CERTAINLY
THE END OF
THE PENGUIN,
EH, ROBIN?

I DUNNO!
I'VE
GOT A
FUNNY
FEELING--

ONLY THE SILENT
WATERS OF THE
MISSISSIPPI KNOW
THE ANSWER OF
THE PENGUIN'S
END, AND THEY
WON'T TELL

No. 4

WINTER ISSUE

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS



96
THRILLING
PAGES!



**SUPERMAN
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN**

**ZATARA
SANDMAN
RED, WHITE & BLUE**

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER -

"GO WEST, YOUNG MAN...
GO WEST, WEST!"
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HEED
THIS OLD ADAGE AND FIND
THEMSELVES RIDING A TRAIL OF
DANGER AND GUNPLAY--WITH THE
ANSWER TO A MYSTERY AT THE
END! WHY DID THE MODERN
WEST GO BACK A CENTURY TO
THE DAYS OF GUN-TOTIN' LEAD-
SLINGIN' BADMEN WHO WERE THAT
GALLOPED ACROSS THE HARD-PAKED
PRAIRIE WITH DEATH AND DESTRUCTION
IN THE SADDLE? UNDER THE NOOSE'S
SWAYING SHADOW, THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN ROUND UP A LEGION OF THE
LAWLESS AND LASSO THE SOLUTION TO THE
BAFFLING PUZZLE OF-- "THE GHOST
GANG GOES WEST!"



A LYNCHING IN PROGRESS--

MEN,
LISTEN!
THIS MAN
MUST HAVE
A TRIAL!

STRING HIM
UP! SOMEBODY
GET A
ROPE!

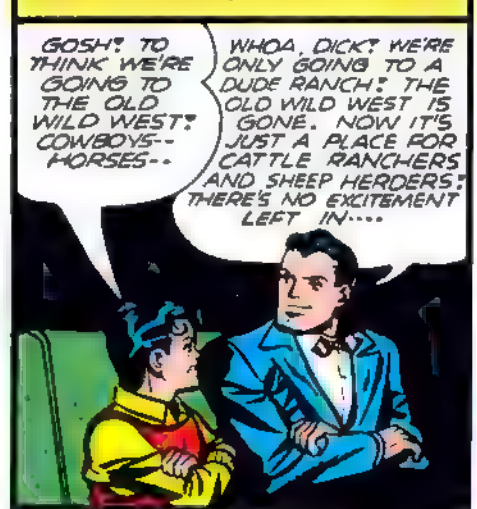
HE'S AS
GUILTY
AS SIN!

AN ANGRY CROWD PUSHES A SOLITARY FIGURE BEFORE IT--CAN IT BE?...IT IS--THE BATMAN!

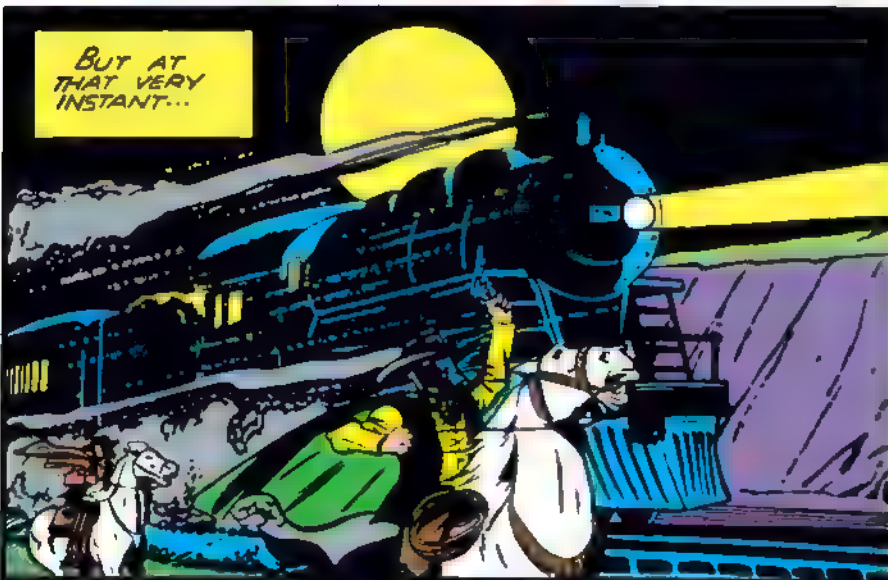


The
BATMAN
ABOUT
TO BE
LYNCHED?
WHY?
FOR THE
ANSWER!
WE MUST
TURN BACK
THE
CLOCK
A FEW
HOURS--
AND GO
TO A
SPEEDING
TRAIN?

ON THIS TRAIN ARE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, HOLIDAY-BOUND.



BUT AT
THAT VERY
INSTANT--



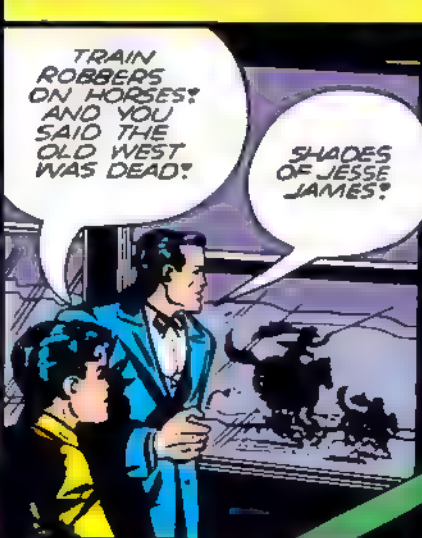
PUT UP
YOUR HANDS!
THIS IS
A
HOLDUP!



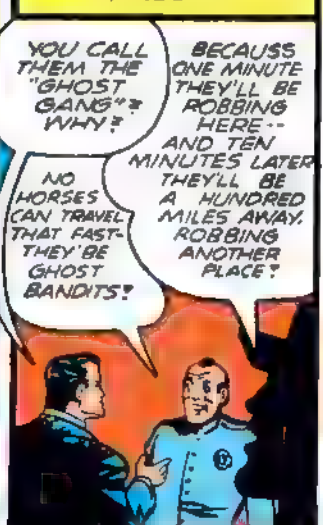
HELPLESS TO INTERFERE, FOR FEAR
INNOCENT PEOPLE MIGHT BE SHOT,
BRUCE AND DICK WATCH, BODIES TAUT?



THEN-- AS SWIFTLY AS THEY
CAME, THE BANDITS DEPART--



UPON QUESTIONING THE
CONDUCTOR, BRUCE
FINDS--



TEN MINUTES LATER---

JUST HAD
A REPORT:
THE GHOST
GANG RAIDED
A BANK
200 MILES
FROM HERE?
AND IT'S BEEN
ONLY A FEW
MINUTES
SINCE THEY
LEFT?

HOLY SMOKE?
YOU'RE RIGHT?
THAT'S FAST--
TOO FAST?
NOT EVEN
RACE HORSES
CAN RUN
LIKE THAT!



AND SOME TIME LATER, THE CRACK
EXPRESS STOPS AT A WESTERN TOWN--



WELL--
WE'RE
HERE?

YES...I'D
BETTER
FIND US A
HOTEL
FOR THE
NIGHT?

SUDDENLY---

THE
GHOST GANG?
THEY'RE
ROBBING
THE
BANK?

THE
GHOST GANG?
BUT--ONLY
A FEW
MINUTES
AGO THEY
WERE A
COUPLE OF
HUNDRED
MILES FROM
HERE--HOW?



IN A DESERTED SHACK---

C'MON--WE'RE GOING
TO TACKLE THAT
GANG AND SEE
JUST HOW
GHOSTLY
THEY ARE?

DON'T
SAY IT.
LIKE THAT?
IT SOUNDS
A LITTLE--
SPOOKY?



THERE
THEY ARE--
C'MON,
ROBIN?

BANK

AND SO, FLASHING IN THE MIDST OF THE
BANDITS COME THOSE TWO TROUBLE-SHOOTERS
OF CRIME ---BATMAN AND ROBIN---

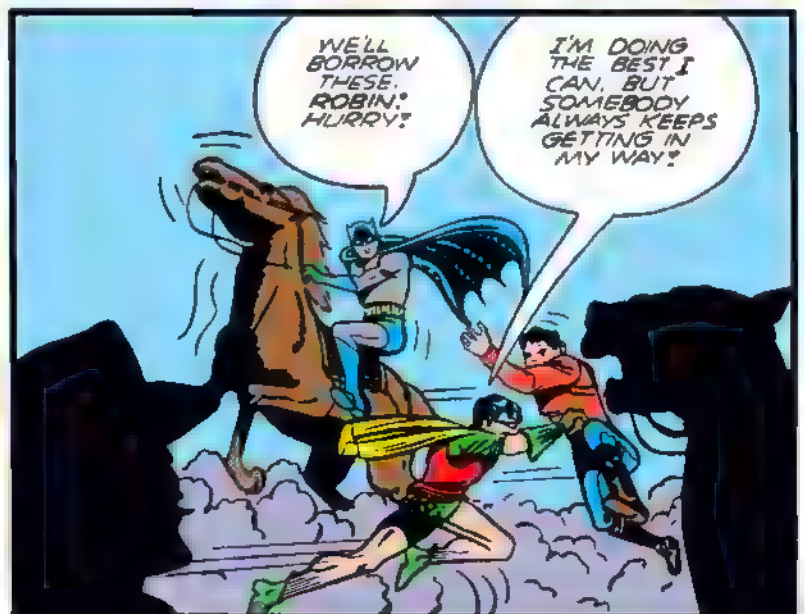
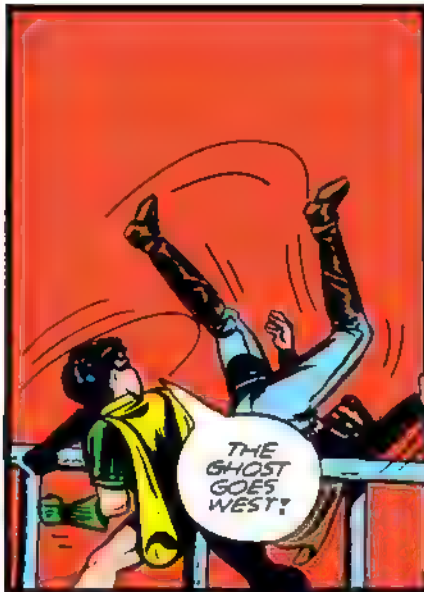


3



MINE
DOESN'T FEEL
LIKE A
GHOST. HOW
ABOUT YOURS,
ROBIN?

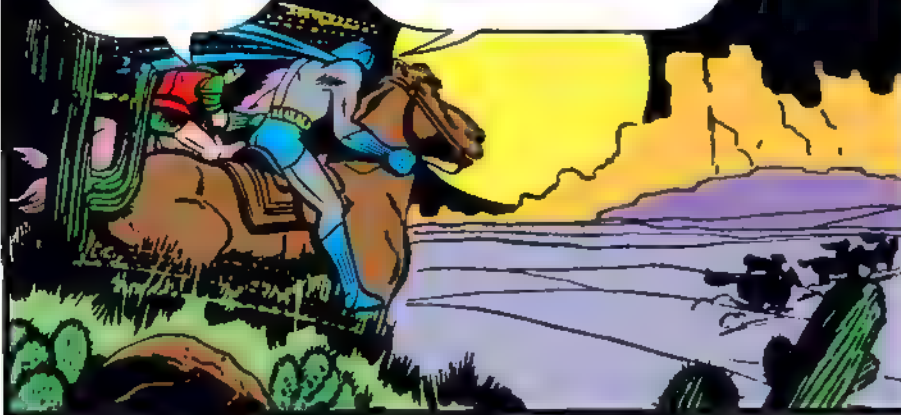
SEEMS
TO HAVE
A PRETTY
SOLID JAW
FOR A
SPOOK?



GREAT CLOAKS WHIPPING OUT BEHIND THEM, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THUNDER AFTER THE FLEEING BANDITS!

THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM?

I DON'T KNOW! THEY'VE GOT FAST HORSES AND THEY'RE YARDS AHEAD OF US!



THEIR HORSES' HOOVES RAPIDLY EATING UP THE DISTANCE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ROUND A MOUNTAIN TRAIL TO FIND...

THEY'RE GONE! THE BANDITS ARE GONE!

BUT WE WERE RIGHT BEHIND THEM! THERE'S NO PLACE TO HIDE HERE-- DON'T TELL ME THEY REALLY ARE GHOSTS!



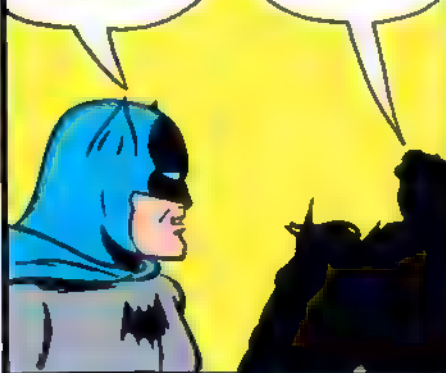
LISTEN! HOOF BEATS AND VOICES! THAT WOULD BE OUR IRATE CITIZENS FROM THE TOWN! THEY'RE AFTER US!

BUT ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS TELL WHO YOU ARE!



IF I KNOW THEM, THEY'RE TOO HOT-HEADED AT THE MOMENT FOR COOL LOGIC! ROBIN-----YOU HIDE WHILE I HANDLE THEM!

NOT ME! IF YOU'RE IN DANGER I WANT TO BE IN ON IT WITH YOU. I'M YOUR PAL!



SORRY, ROBIN-- BUT THIS IS ONE FIGHT I WANT YOU OUT OF!



HIDING ROBIN BEHIND A LARGE BOULDER, BATMAN TURNS TO FACE THE ANGRY TOWNSPEOPLE!

LOOK! HE'S DRESSED IN A DIFFERENT COSTUME THAN THE OTHERS!

THERE'S ONE WHO DIDN'T GET AWAY!



BOYS, I GOT A HUNCH WE CAUGHT US THE LEADER O' THE GHOST GANG!

AN' I GOTTA HUNCH WE'RE GOIN' TO HAVE US A NECK-TIE PARTY, EH?



AND NOW THAT WE KNOW THE FACTS, LET US GO BACK TO THAT LYNCHING--OF THE BATMAN?

--AN' WE DON'T WANNA HEAR WHO YOU ARE, LIKE YOU BIN' TRYIN' TO TELL US? WE'RE STRINGIN' YOU UP?

WELL, LOOK-- I'D LIKE TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU---

...WILL YOU BRING ME A GLASS OF WATER... AND PROMISE NOT TO HANG ME UNTIL I FINISH DRINKING THE WATER IN THAT GLASS?

WAAL--I GUESS THERE'S NO HARM IN THET, I PROMISE?

THE GLASS OF WATER IS BROUGHT TO THE BATMAN'S LIPS, WHEN SUDDENLY--

HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?

THE SOFT EARTH SUCKS UP THE WATER?

I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DRINK THAT WATER ANY MORE-- AND YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T HANG ME UNTIL I DID?

HAW? HAW? SHORE PUT ONE OVER ON YOU, CAL? HAW? HAW?

WAAL, I'LL BE A RING-TAILED GALOOT?

THE LITTLE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRICK CLEARS THE BLINDING RAGE FROM THE CROWD'S MINDS---

LISTEN? LOOK CLOSELY AND CAREFULLY AT MY COSTUME? WHAT DOES IT RESEMBLE?

SORTA LIKE WINGS?

YEAH-- LIKE BAT-WINGS?

EXACTLY? I'M THE BATMAN?

SHORE, THET'S HIM ALL RIGHT? ...AND TO THINK WE ALMOST STRUNG UP THE BATMAN?

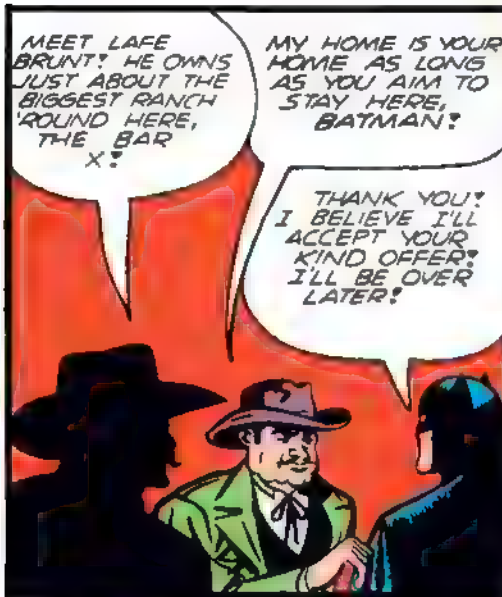
THE BATMAN IS FREED OF HIS BONDS---

SAY...YOU COME OUT HERE TO BUST UP THIS HERE GHOST GANG?

NOT ORIGINALLY, BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE, I INTEND TO CLEAN UP THE GHOST GANG?

...NOW IF I CAN FIND A HOTEL AROUND HERE TO PUT ME UP FOR MY STAY?

NO NEED FOR A HOTEL, BATMAN? I'D BE RIGHT HONORED IF YOU BUNKED OUT AT MY PLACE?



MEET LAFE BRUNT? HE OWNS JUST ABOUT THE BIGGEST RANCH 'ROUND HERE, THE BAR X.

MY HOME IS YOUR HOME AS LONG AS YOU AIM TO STAY HERE, BATMAN!

THANK YOU! I BELIEVE I'LL ACCEPT YOUR KIND OFFER. I'LL BE OVER LATER!



SOMETIME AFTER, BATMAN STEALS BACK TO ROBIN---

GOSH--I'M SORRY, ROBIN-- BUT ONE OF US HAD TO THINK WITH A CLEAR HEAD--

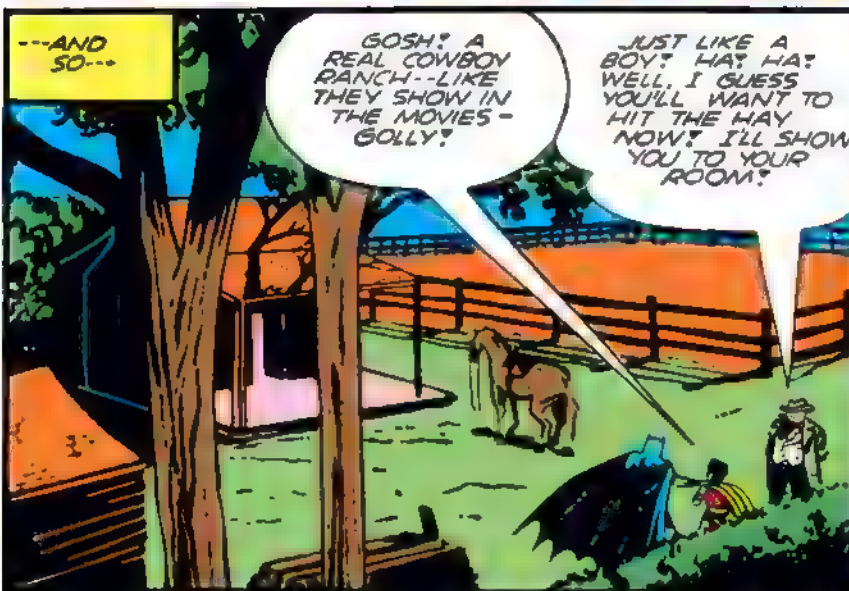
FORGET IT! WOW! YOU CERTAINLY PACK A PUNCH! I'M GLAD I'M PLAYING ON YOUR SIDE! MY JAW! OH-HH?



BATMAN ACQUAINTS ROBIN WITH THE SITUATION--

BUT IF EVERYONE KNOWS WE'RE STAYING AT BRUNT'S RANCH, THAT MEANS THE GHOST GANG--

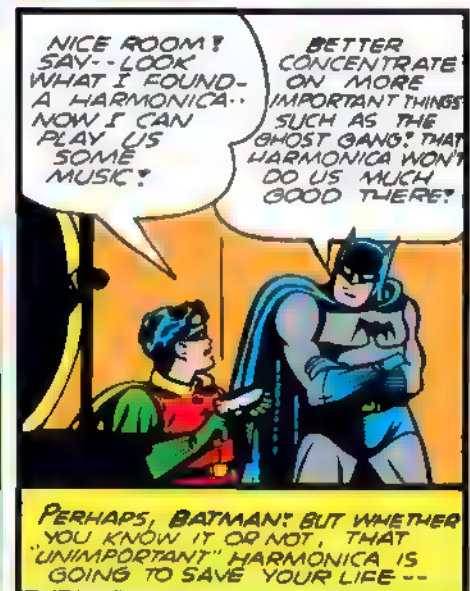
--IS SURE TO LEARN IT AND TRY TO KILL US BEFORE WE DISCOVER TOO MUCH ABOUT THEM! WE'RE GOING TO BE BAIT TO BRING THEM INTO THE OPEN!



---AND SO---

GOSH! A REAL COWBOY RANCH--LIKE THEY SHOW IN THE MOVIES--GOLLY!

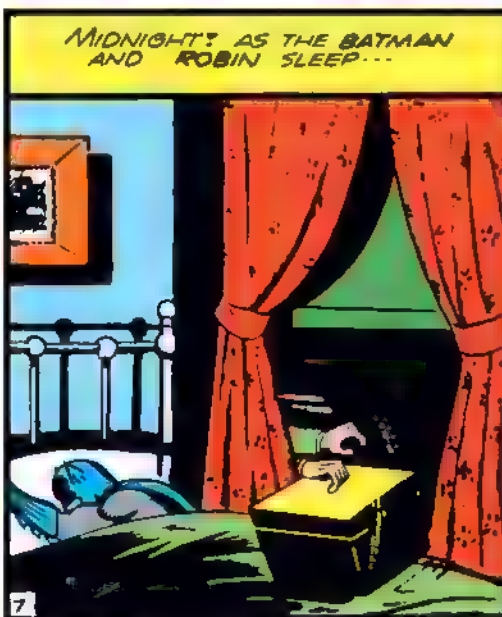
JUST LIKE A BOY? HA! HA! WELL, I GUESS YOU'LL WANT TO HIT THE HAY NOW! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!



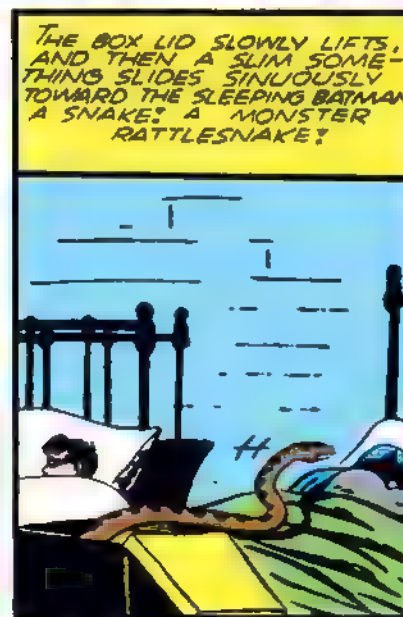
NICE ROOM? SAY--LOOK WHAT I FOUND--A HARMONICA-- NOW I CAN PLAY US SOME MUSIC!

BETTER CONCENTRATE ON MORE IMPORTANT THINGS SUCH AS THE GHOST GANG! THAT HARMONICA WON'T DO US MUCH GOOD THERE!

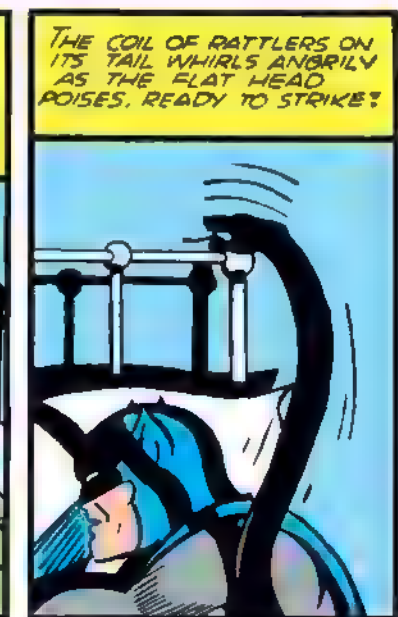
PERHAPS, BATMAN! BUT WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, THAT "UNIMPORTANT" HARMONICA IS GOING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE--



MIDNIGHT? AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SLEEP---

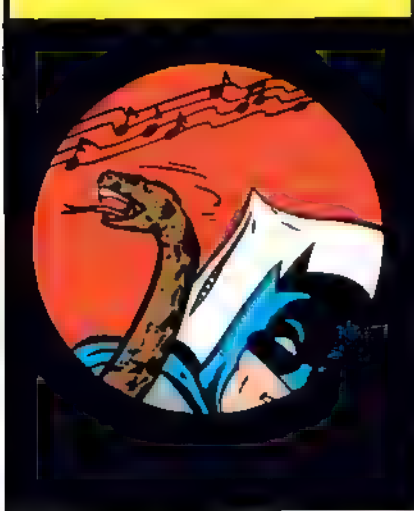


THE BOX LID SLOWLY LIFTS, AND THEN A SLIM SOMETHING SLIDES SINUOUSLY TOWARD THE SLEEPING BATMAN, A SNAKE! A MONSTER RATTLESNAKE!

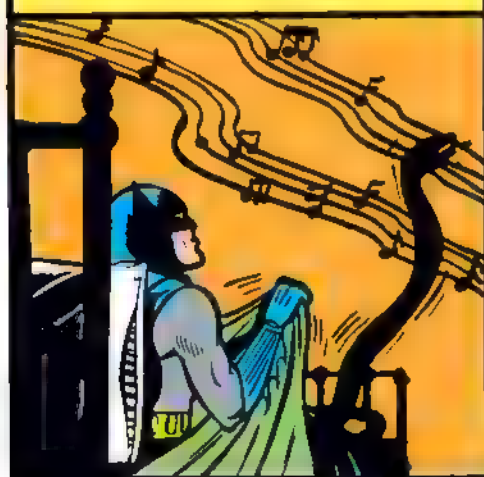


THE COIL OF RATTLES ON ITS TAIL WHIRLS ANGRILY AS THE FLAT HEAD POISES, READY TO STRIKE!

THEN A MAD, CRAZY THING HAPPENS. SOMEBODY STARTS PLAYING MUSIC?



CAUTIOUSLY, WITH AN ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT, THE BATMAN STARTS TO SLIDE HIS HAND ACROSS THE BEDCOVER---



GOTCHA?



LATER---

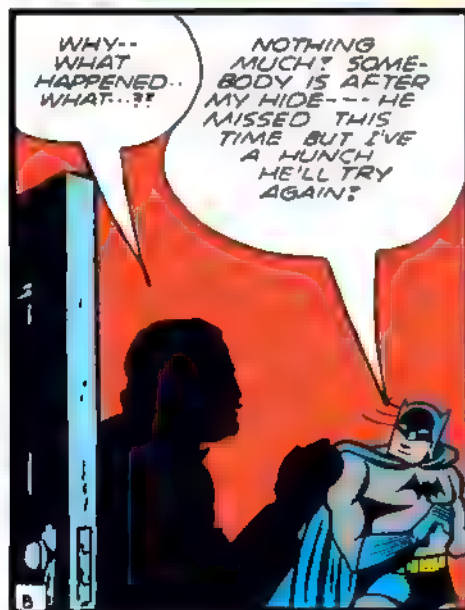
I ONCE READ HOW HINDUS BLOW MUSIC ON REEDS AND CHARM COBRAS. GOLLY--I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD WORK WITH A HARMONICA.

WHEW? WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE MY "BAIT" PLAN IS WORKING-- WITH A VENGEANCE?



WHY-- WHAT HAPPENED-- WHAT...??

NOTHING MUCH? SOMEBODY IS AFTER MY HIDE--- HE MISSED THIS TIME BUT I'VE A HUNCH HE'LL TRY AGAIN?



AND THEY DO TRY AGAIN, FOR THE NEXT DAY---

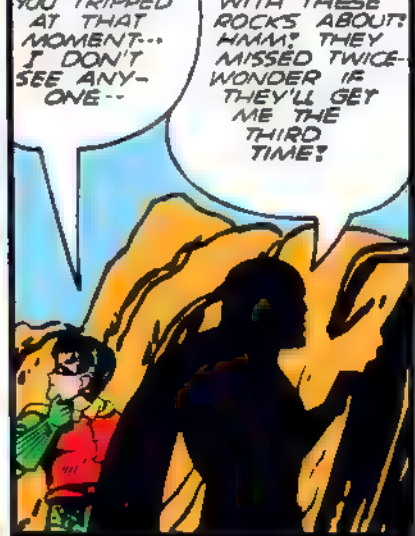
CRACK!

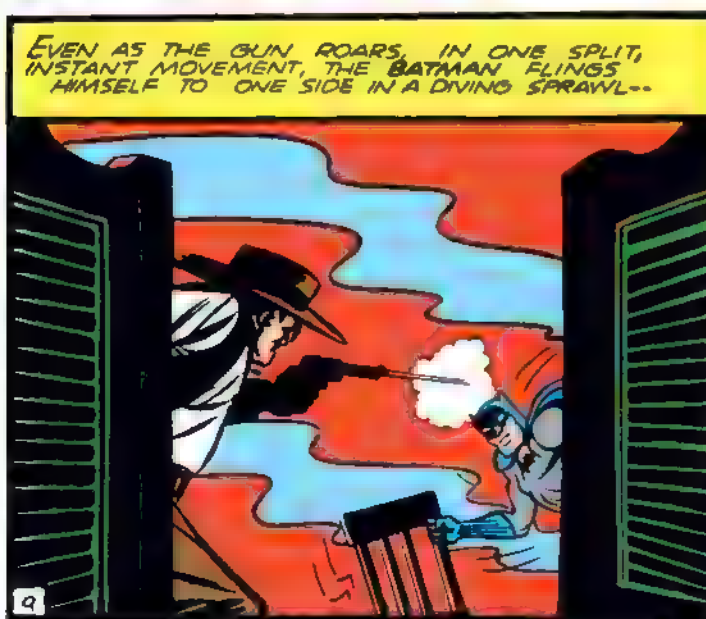
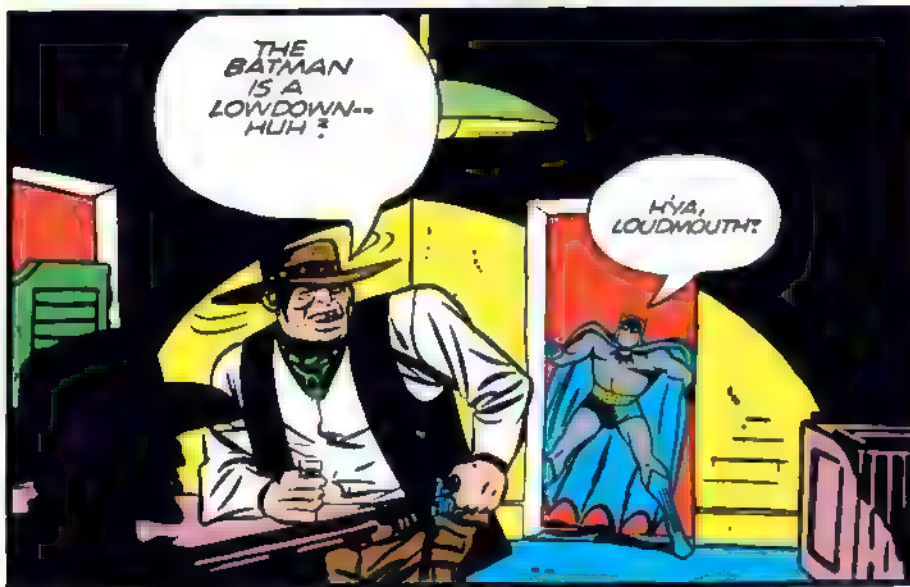
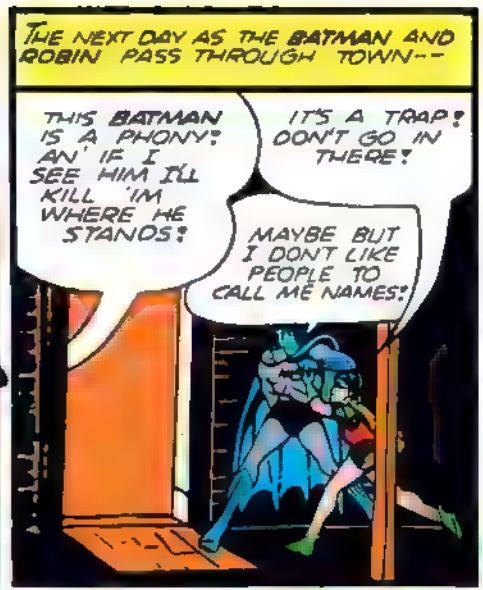
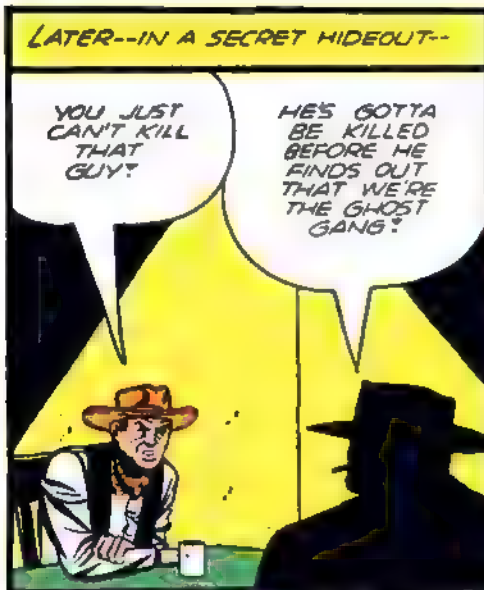
LOOK OUT FOR THAT ROCK?



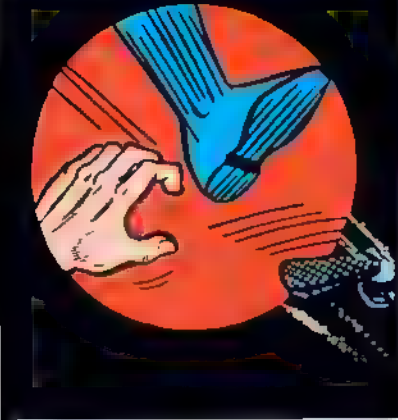
WHEW? A LUCKY THING YOU TRIPPED AT THAT MOMENT-- I DON'T SEE ANYONE--

YOU COULDN'T WITH THESE ROCKS ABOUT? HMMM? THEY MISSED TWICE-- WONDER IF THEY'LL GET ME THE THIRD TIME?





DARTING FORWARD, THE BATMAN KICKS THE GUN OUT OF HARM'S WAY WHERE IT HAD DROPPED NEAR THE KILLER'S HAND?

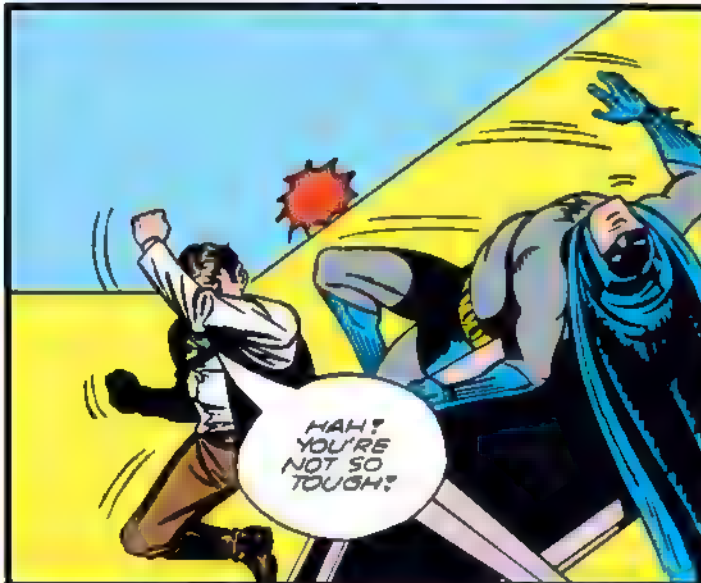


LET'S MAKE IT A NICE EVEN FIGHT, EH?



THAT SUITS ME FINE!

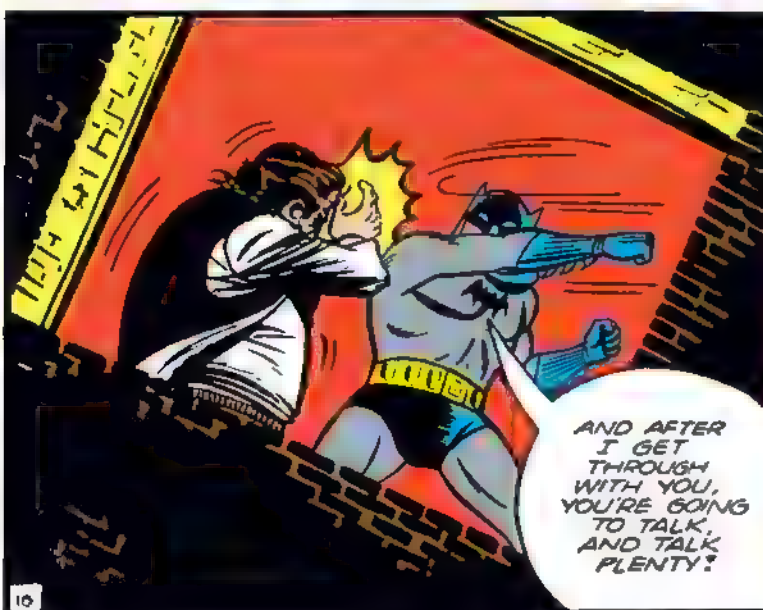
LIKE TWO SNARLING TIGERS, THEY ROLL ABOUT THE FLOOR IN A THRASHING TANGLE OF ARMS AND LEGS?



HAH! YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH!



AND YOU'RE JUST A BIT TOO OPTIMISTIC?



AND AFTER I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU'RE GOING TO TALK, AND TALK PLENTY!

WITHOUT WARNING---THE CRACK OF A GUN?



UGH! I'M SHOT!

AS THE BATMAN STANDS DUMBFOUNDED, ROBIN, WAITING OUTSIDE, CHASES AFTER THE MURDERER--

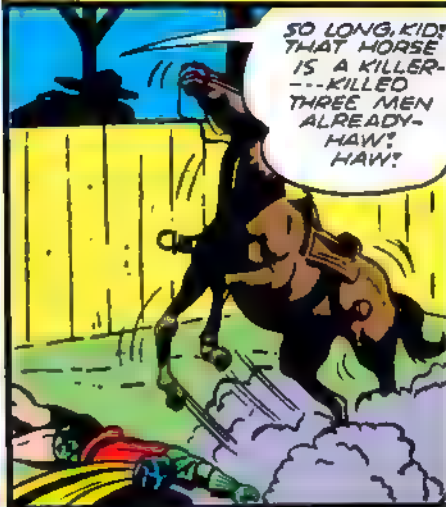
RODEO



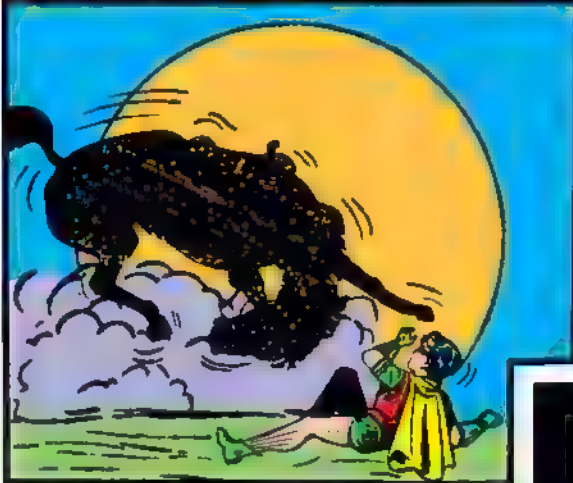
INSIDE THE BUILDING ROBIN RACES WHEN--SOME-THING EXPLODES ON HIS HEAD?



HALF STUNNED, ROBIN FEELS HIMSELF LIFTED AND THROWN INTO AN ENCLOSURE...A PEN HOLDING A WILD HORSE?!

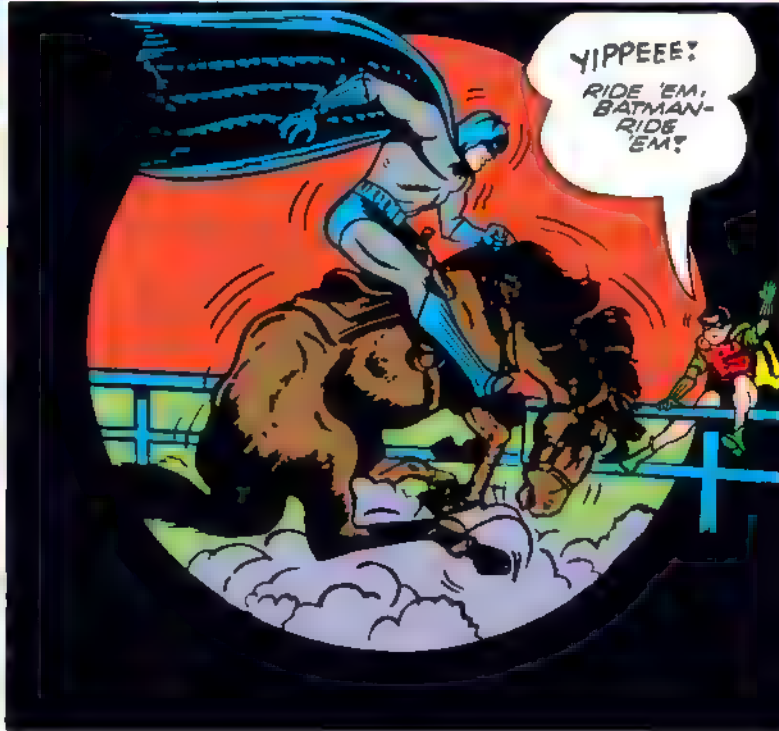
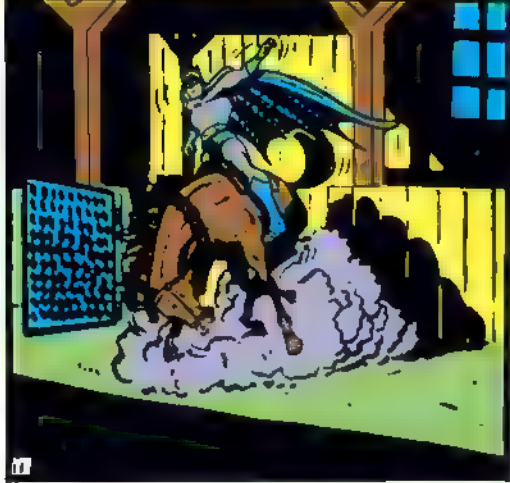


LEFT ALONE, THE GROSSY BOY DESPERATELY ROLLS AWAY, TRYING TO AVOID DEATH FROM LASHING HOOVES?

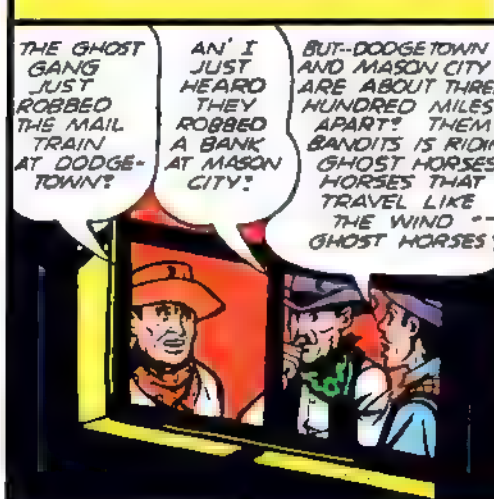


THEN A CLOAKED FIGURE SWINGS OVER THE FENCE AND LANDS ON THE BACK OF THE HUMAN-HATING BRONCO?

THE CHUTE GATE OPENS--THE MADDENED BRONC BOUNDS ACROSS THE GROUND WITH THE BATMAN GLUED TO ITS BACK?



AS THE BATMAN SUBDUES THE WILD BRONCO, STARTLING NEWS ROCKS THE TOWN?



THE GHOST GANG JUST ROBBED THE MAIL TRAIN AT DODGE-TOWN?

AN' I JUST HEARD THEY ROBBED A BANK AT MASON CITY?

BUT--DODGETOWN AND MASON CITY ARE ABOUT THREE HUNDRED MILES APART? THEM BANDITS IS RIDIN' GHOST HORSES, HORSES THAT TRAVEL LIKE THE WIND -- GHOST HORSES?

SOMETIME LATER...



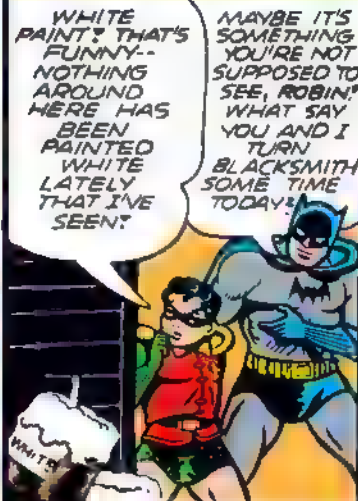
BATMAN AND ROBIN? BUT I THOUGHT YOU--ER... THAT IS... I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN TOWN?

WHY, NO--

WHAT'S HE LOOK SO SURPRISED ABOUT AT SEEING US? I WONDER IF--

ALIVE? SOMETHING WENT WRONG?

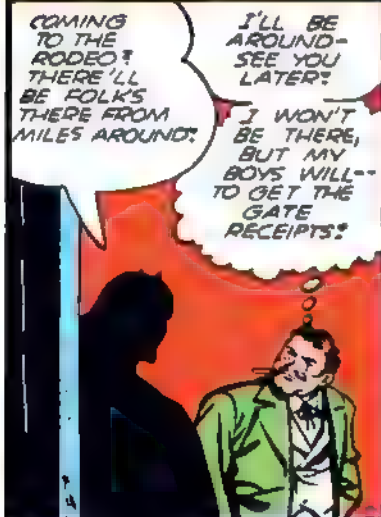
THE NEXT DAY--



WHITE PAINT? THAT'S FUNNY-- NOTHING AROUND HERE HAS BEEN PAINTED WHITE LATELY THAT I'VE SEEN?

MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SEE, ROBIN? WHAT SAY YOU AND I TURN BLACKSMITH SOME TIME TODAY?

THAT NIGHT--

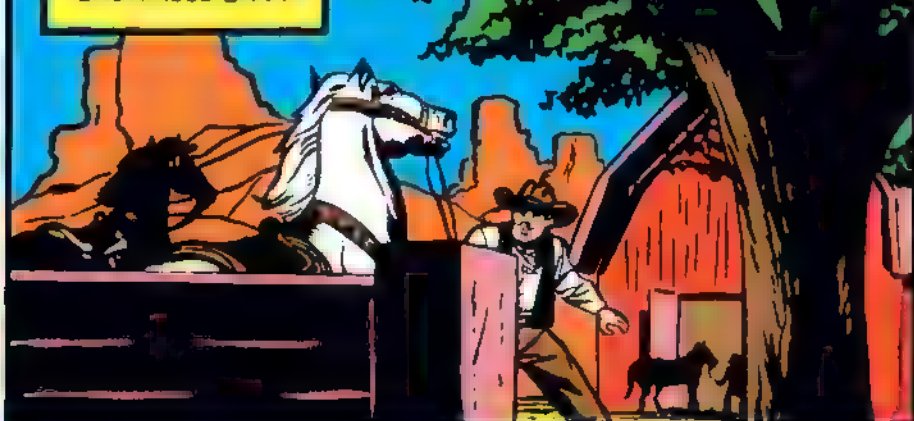


COMING TO THE RODEO? THERE'LL BE FOLKS THERE FROM MILES AROUND?

I'LL BE AROUND-- SEE YOU LATER?

I WON'T BE THERE, BUT MY BOYS WILL-- TO GET THE GATE RECEIPTS?

ONE HOUR LATER-- THE HORSES ARE LED TO AN ENORMOUS BARN--



SHORTLY AFTER THE ROOF OF THE BARN SLIDES BACK AND A WEIRD SOMETHING BEGINS TO RISE FROM WITHIN--



AN AUTOBIRO-- A BLACK, MONSTER AUTOBIRO WITH WHIRLING BLADES RISES INTO THE MOONLIT SKY--

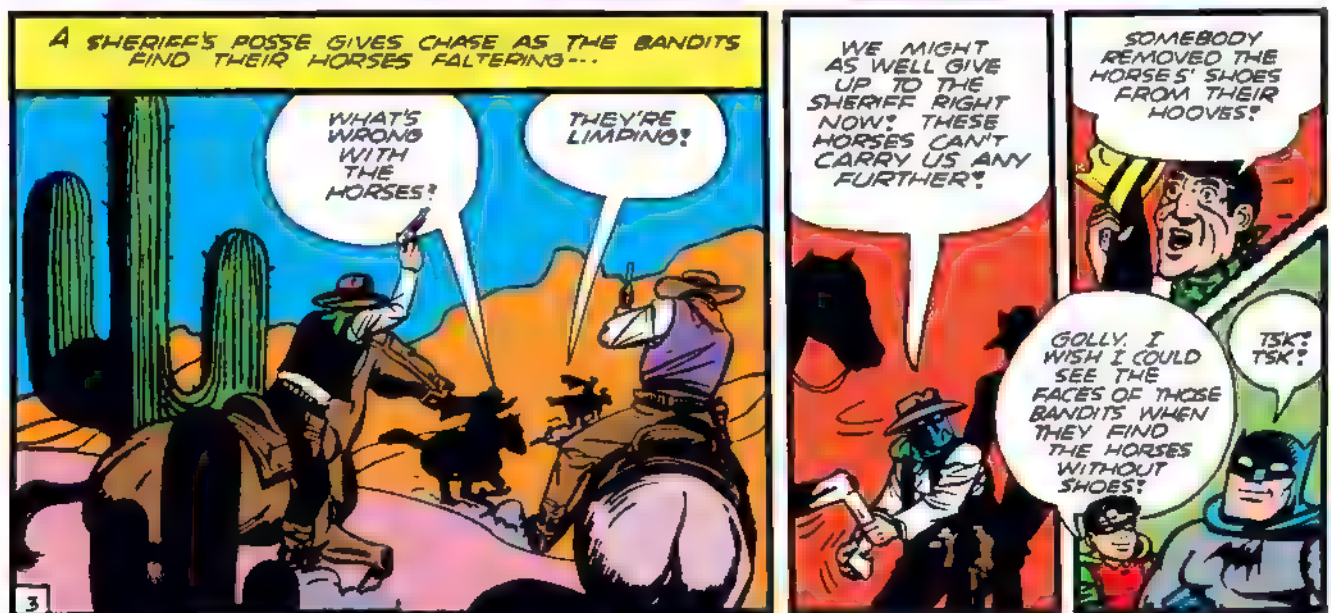
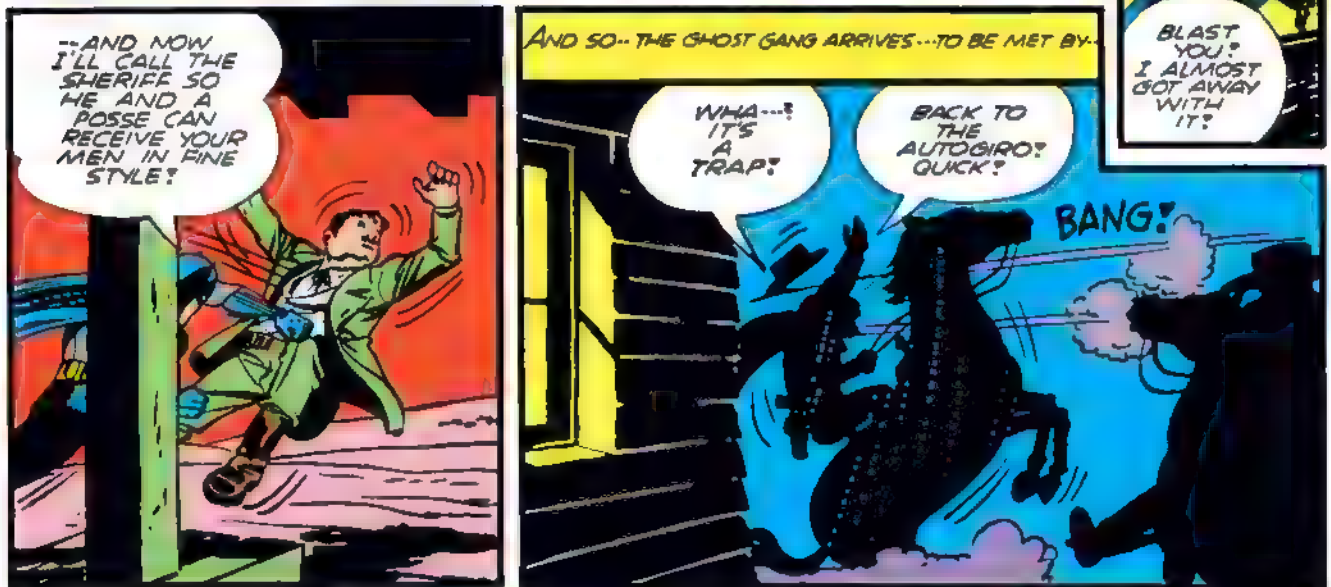
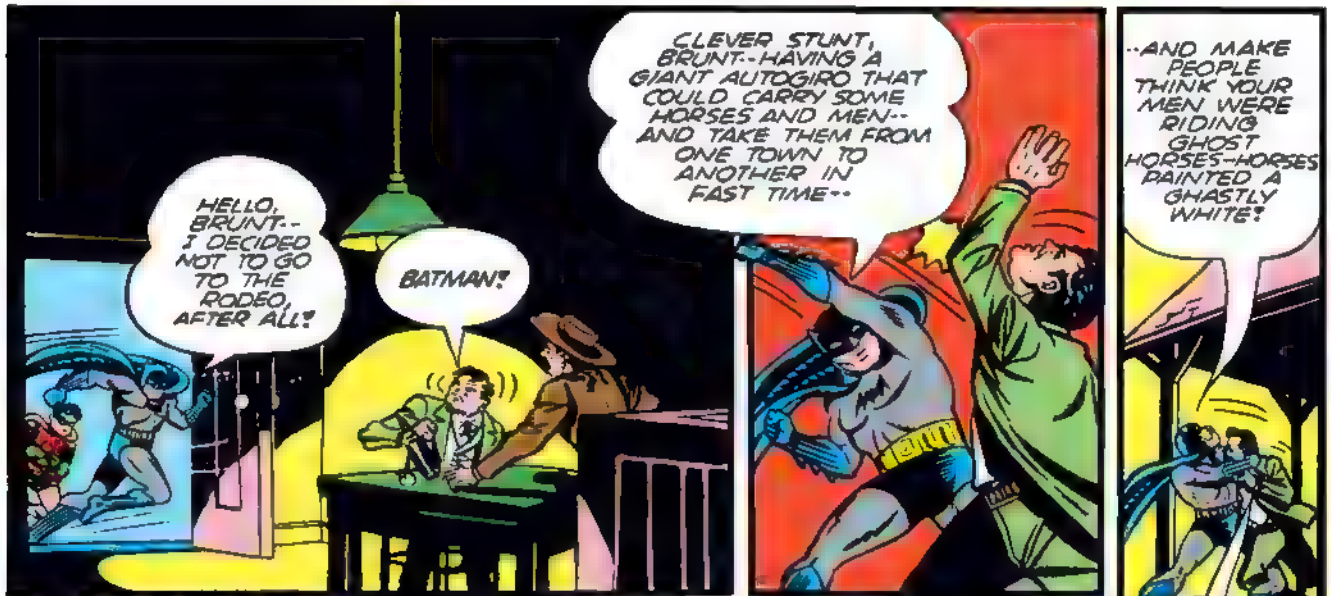


THERE IT IS, ROBIN? THE ANSWER TO EVERYTHING?

HERE'S WHERE WE MAKE THE BATMAN LOOK LIKE A FOOL? WE ROB THE RODEO, AND--HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?



ULP?-- L-LOOK-ULP?





No. 60



THE BATMAN

Detective COMICS

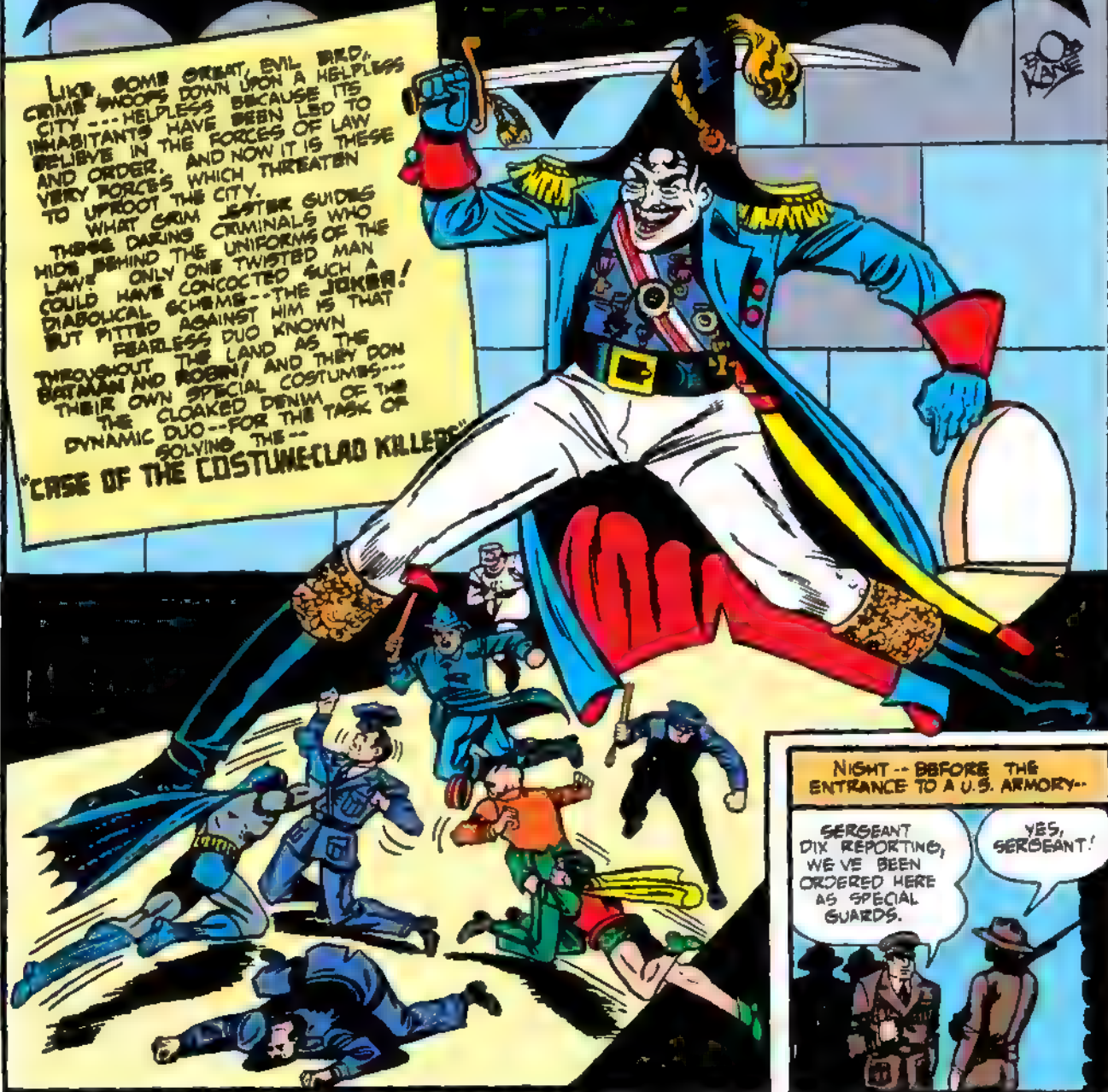
FEB.



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

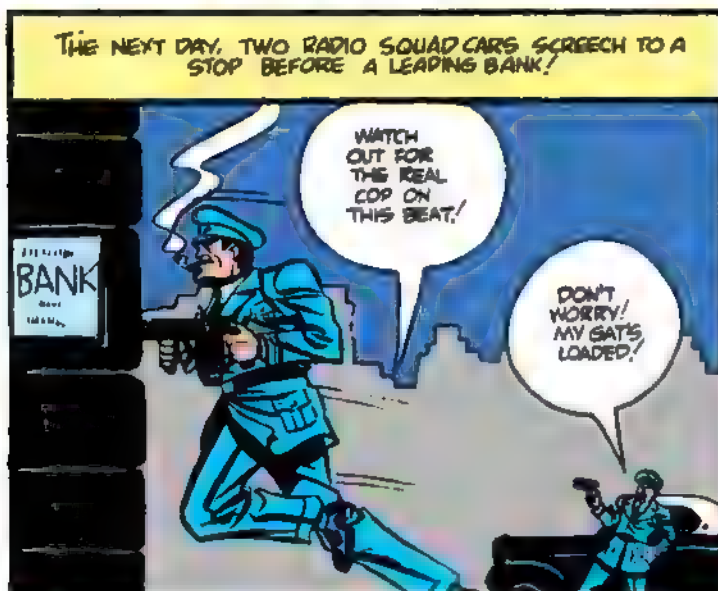
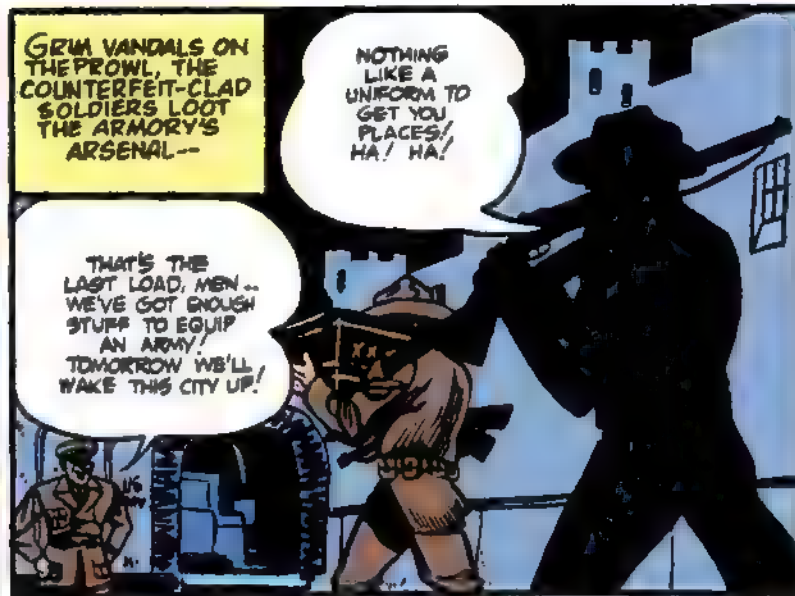
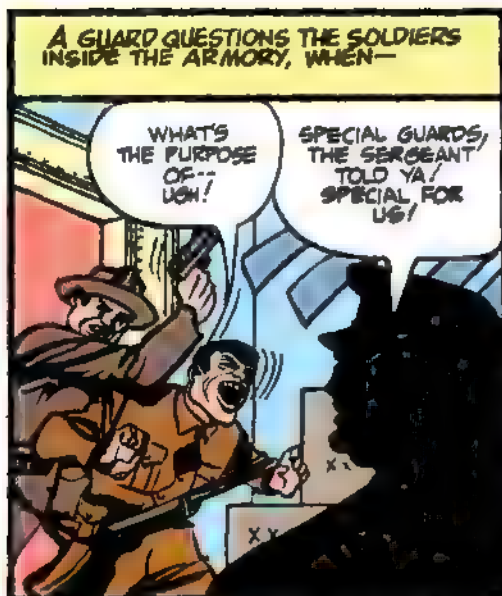
LIKE SOME GREAT, EVIL BIRD,
CRIME SWOOPS DOWN UPON A HELPLESS
CITY --- HELPLESS BECAUSE ITS
INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN LED TO
BELIEVE IN THE FORCES OF LAW
AND ORDER. AND NOW IT IS THESE
VERY FORCES WHICH THREATEN
TO UPROOT THE CITY.
WHAT CRIM JESTER GUIDES
THESE DARING CRIMINALS WHO
HIDE BEHIND THE UNIFORMS OF THE
LAW --- ONLY ONE TWISTED MAN
COULD HAVE CONCOCTED SUCH A
DIABOLICAL SCHEME --- THE JOKER!
BUT PITTED AGAINST HIM IS THAT
FEARLESS DUO KNOWN
THROUGHOUT THE LAND AS THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND THEY DON
THEIR OWN SPECIAL COSTUMES ---
THE CLOAKED DENIM OF THE
DYNAMIC DUO --- FOR THE TASK OF
"CASE OF THE COSTUME-CLAD KILLERS"



NIGHT -- BEFORE THE
ENTRANCE TO A U.S. ARMORY--

SERGEANT
DIX REPORTING,
WE'VE BEEN
ORDERED HERE
AS SPECIAL
GUARDS.

YES,
SERGEANT!



AS AN ELECTRIFIED CROWD WATCHES, THE RUTHLESS RAIDERS SPEED AWAY IN OFFICIAL PROMUL CARS—



SOMETIME LATER, THE UNIFORMED KILLERS STRIKE IN STILL ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY—



WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THOSE RUGGS BOYS!

HA! HA! THESE FIREMEN OUTFITS SURE ARE THE MC COY!



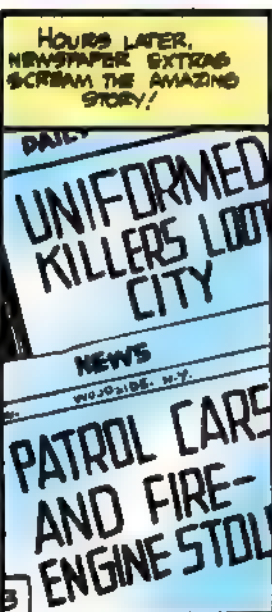
THESE ARE THE MOST VALUABLE, BOSS! WORTH A FEW GRAND APICES!

NOT A BAD HAUL! NOT BAD AT ALL!



THE MIGHTY FIRE-ENGINE ROARS AWAY, SPEWING MACHINE-GUN DEATH IN ITS WAKE—

STOP THEM! THEY'RE NOT FIREMEN! THEY'RE THIEVES, MURDERERS!



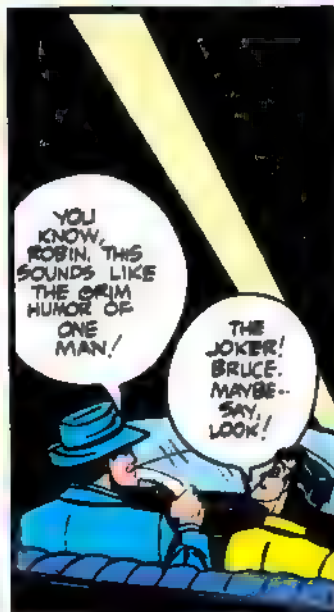
HOURS LATER, NEWSPAPER EXTRAS SCREAM THE AMAZING STORY!



RETURNING FROM A BRIEF VACATION, BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON READ THE STARTLING NEWS—

A CLEVER GANG! THEY SECURED UNIFORMS OF POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN—THEN IMPERSONATED THE OFFICIALS!

SMART PLANNING!



YOU KNOW, ROBIN, THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE GRIM HUMOR OF ONE MAN!

THE JOKER! BRUCE, MAYBE—SAY, LOOK!



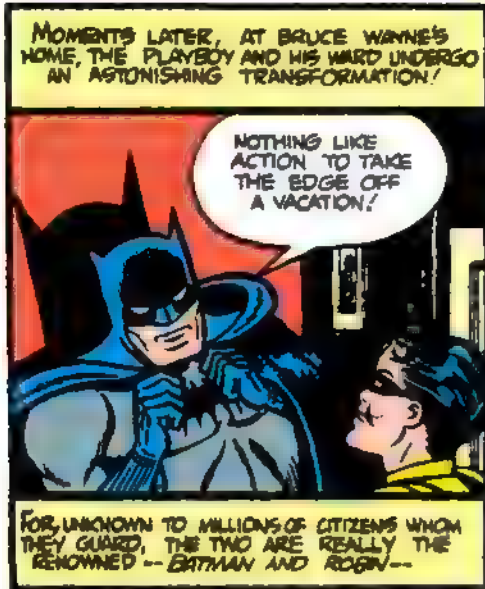
SUDDENLY A GIGANTIC CONE OF LIGHT PIERCES THE DUSK OF DAY AND ETCHES AN EERIE SYMBOL AGAINST A BLACK CLOUD—THE SILHOUETTE OF A GIANT BAT!

THAT'S COMING FROM THE SEARCHLIGHT ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

YES—THEY'RE CALLING THE BATMAN!

WE'VE GOT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO, DICK!

MOMENTS LATER, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S HOME, THE PLAYBOY AND HIS WARD UNDERGO AN ASTONISHING TRANSFORMATION!



NOTHING LIKE ACTION TO TAKE THE EDGE OFF A VACATION!

FOR UNKNOWN TO MILLIONS OF CITIZENS WHOM THEY GUARD, THE TWO ARE REALLY THE RENOWNED -- BATMAN AND ROBIN --

PRESENTLY, THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS THROUGH THE STREETS IN ANSWER TO THE SUMMONS FROM THE SKY!



IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PRIVATE OFFICE, BRUCE WAYNE'S SHREWD HUNCH IS CONFIRMED--



THE JOKER'S BEHIND THESE HOLDUPS! LOOK AT THIS!

THE SIGN OF THE JOKER--



HA! HA! HA! SOLDIERS! POLICEMEN! FIREMEN! HA! HA! ...AND THE WEATHER WON'T STOP ME FROM TAKING FORTUNE FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE!

THE WEATHER? HMM-- THE WEATHER REPORT FOR TODAY IS "POSSIBLE LIGHT SNOW!" WHY SHOULD SNOW STOP THE JOKER? I DON'T GET HIS CRYPTIC HUMOR!



WAIT A MINUTE! "WEATHER -- SNOW!" "UNIFORMED KILLERS!" "RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSES." THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE THAT FITS THE PICTURE! COME ON, ROBIN!

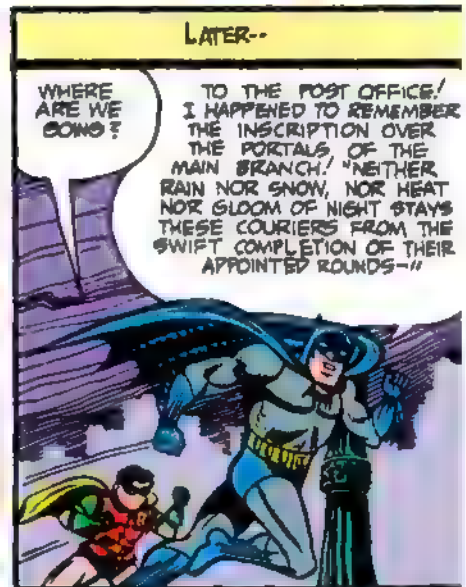


NOW WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

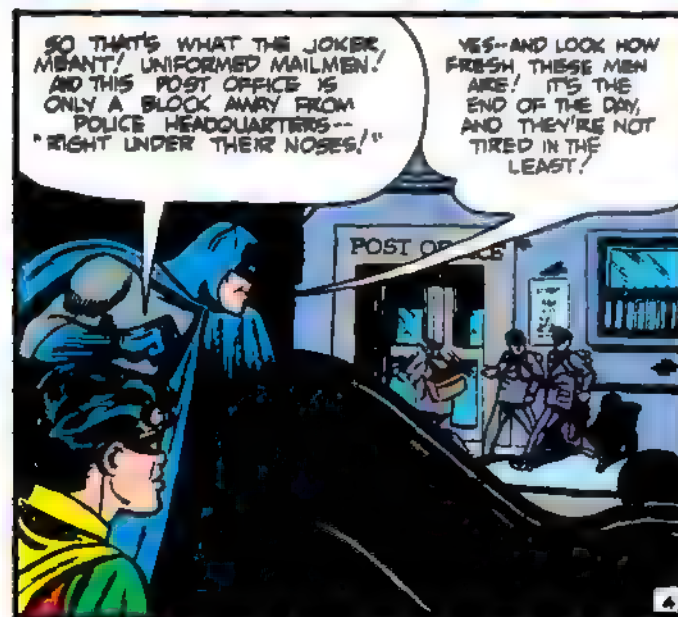
LATER--

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO THE POST OFFICE! I HAPPENED TO REMEMBER THE INSCRIPTION OVER THE PORTALS OF THE MAIN BRANCH! "NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW, NOR HEAT NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT STAYS THESE COURIERS FROM THE SWIFT COMPLETION OF THEIR APPOINTED ROUNDS--"



SO THAT'S WHAT THE JOKER MEANT! UNIFORMED MAILMEN! AND THIS POST OFFICE IS ONLY A BLOCK AWAY FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS-- "RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES!"

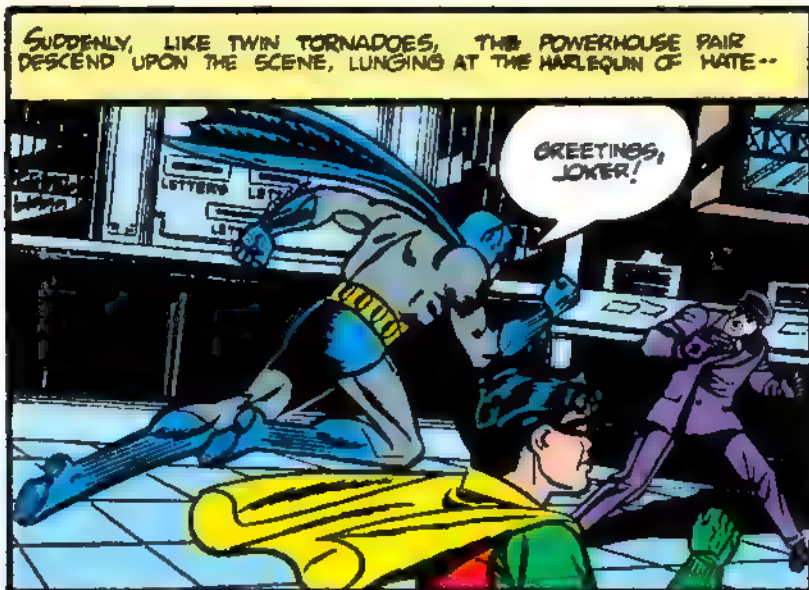


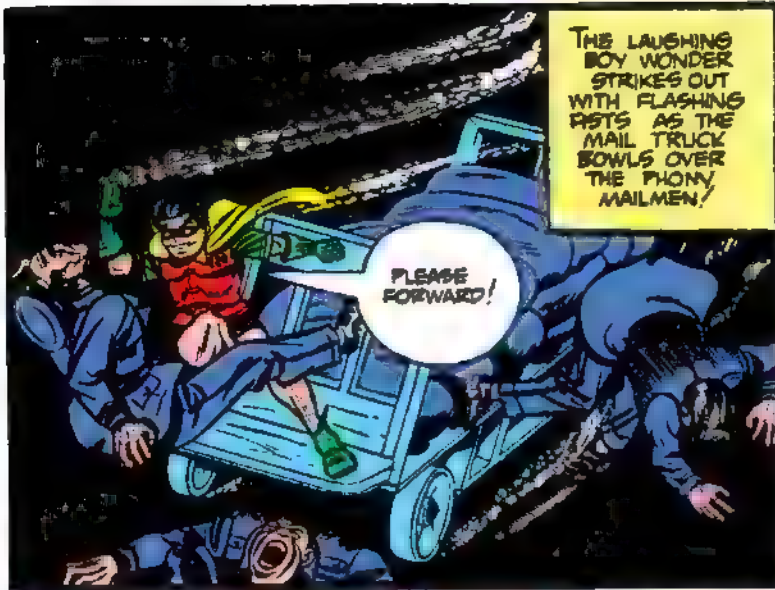
YES--AND LOOK HOW FRESH THESE MEN ARE! IT'S THE END OF THE DAY, AND THEY'RE NOT TIRED IN THE LEAST!

INSIDE THE POST OFFICE, THE MASQUERADING KILLERS EXECUTE THEIR LATEST COUP--



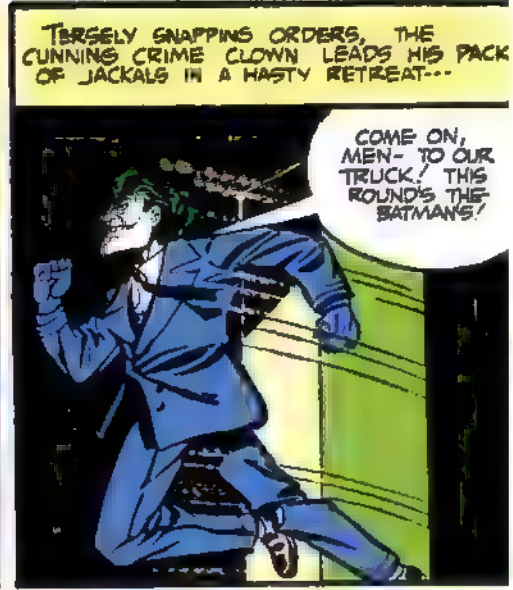
OPEN THAT SAFE--AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!





THE LAUGHING
BOY WONDER
STRIKES OUT
WITH FLASHING
FISTS AS THE
MAIL TRUCK
BOWLS OVER
THE PHONY
MAILMEN!

PLEASE
FORWARD!



TERSELY SNAPPING ORDERS, THE
CUNNING CRIME CLOWN LEADS HIS PACK
OF JACKALS IN A HASTY RETREAT---

COME ON,
MEN- TO OUR
TRUCK! THIS
ROUND'S THE
BATMAN'S!



THEY'RE
GETTING
AWAY IN
THAT MAIL
TRUCK!

THE
BATMOBILE
WILL CATCH
THEM! COME
ON!



A MOMENT LATER THE BAT-
MOBILE ROARS IN THE WAKE
OF THE UNIFORMED KILLERS!



SEE IF YOU CAN
RIDE OVER THESE,
BATMAN!

THEY'LL
NEVER RIDE ON
OUR TACKS
AND BROKEN
GLASS.



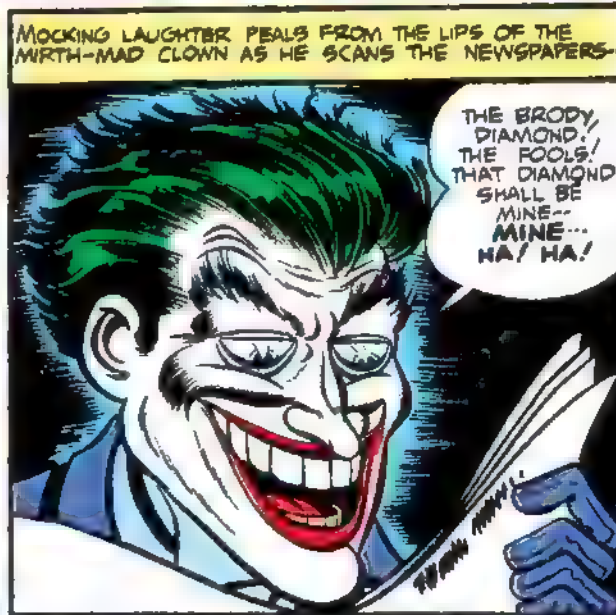
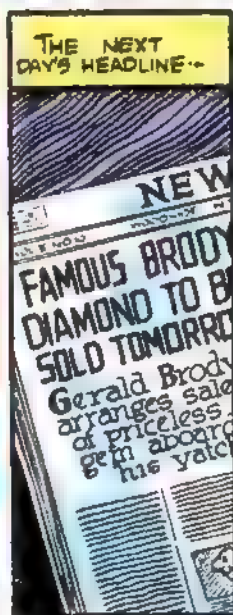
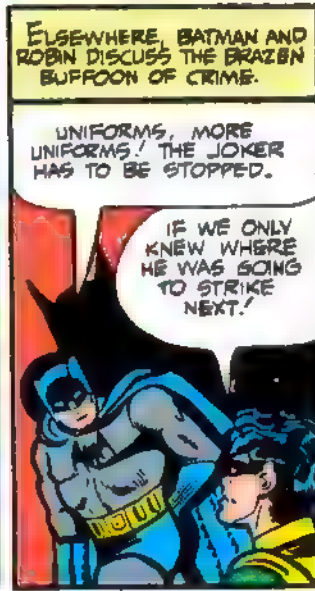
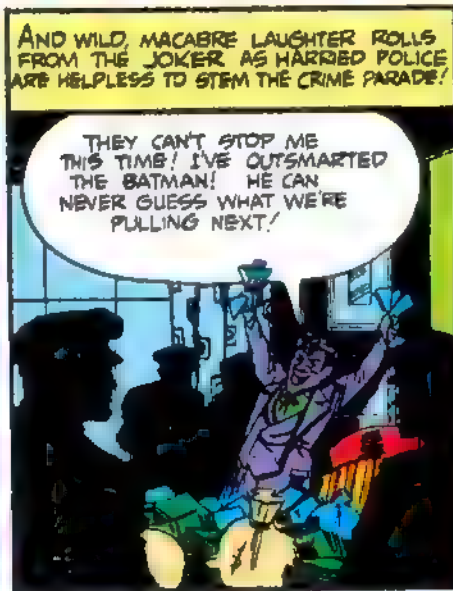
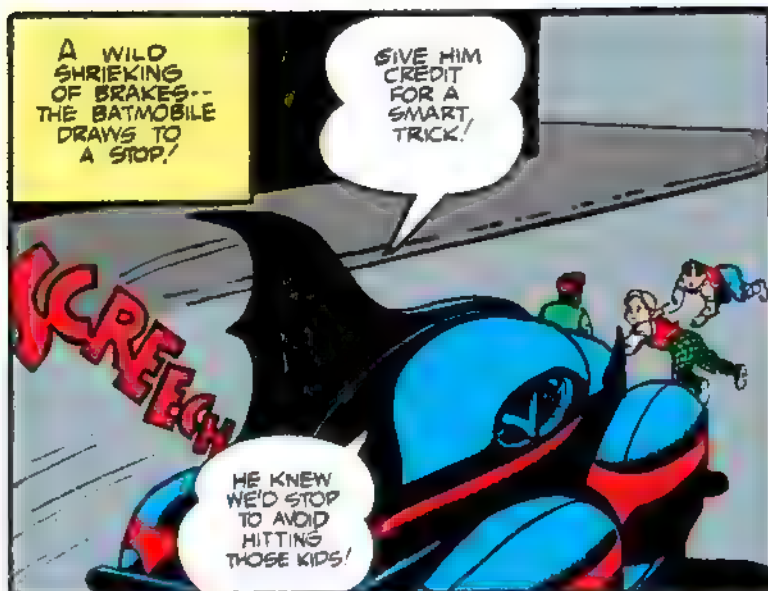
TAKE MORE
THAN THAT
TO RIP OUR
SPECIAL
TIRES!

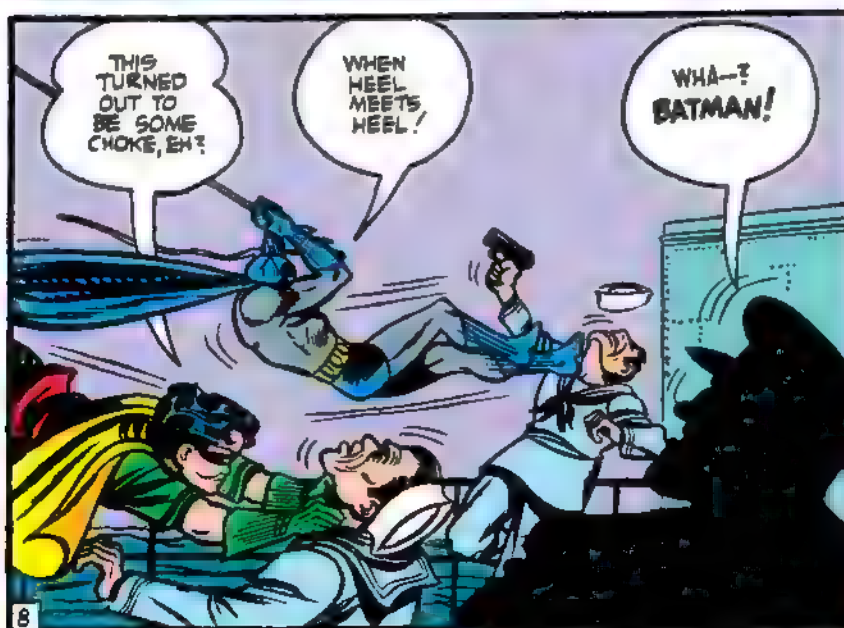
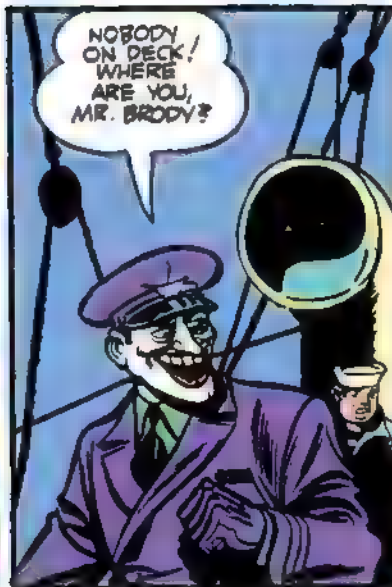
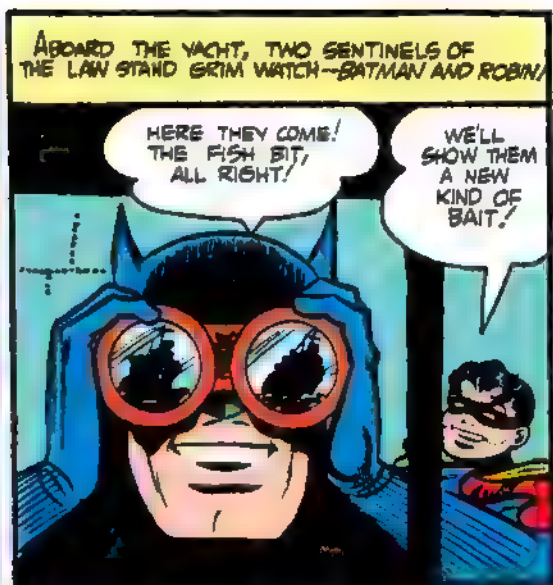
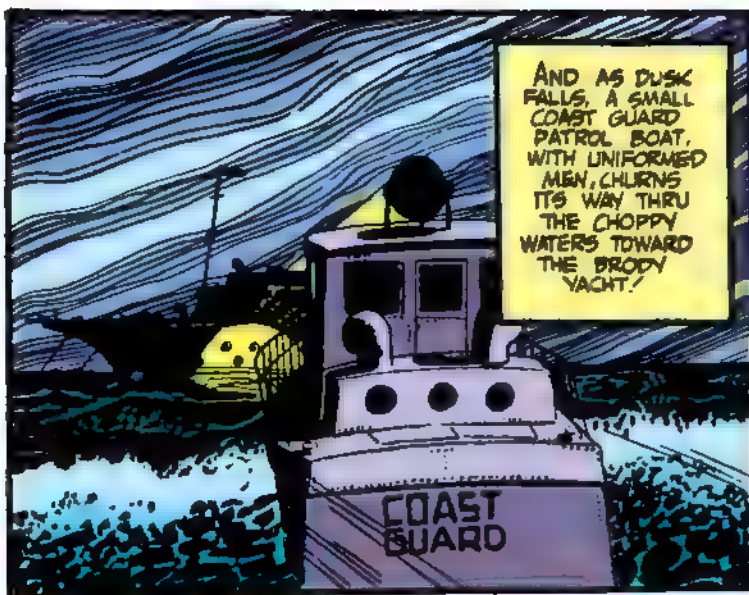


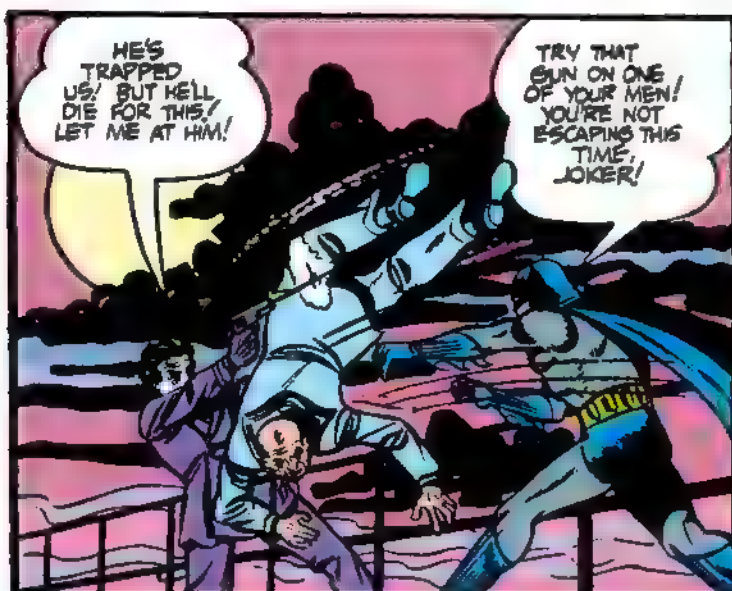
BUT THE KILLER
CLOWN HAS AN
ACE IN THE
HOLE! AS THE
MAIL TRUCK
SPEEDS INTO A
STREET BUSTLING
WITH CHILDREN
AT PLAY--

HEY,
FELLAS!
THAT MAN'S
THROWING
MONEY
AWAY!

LOOK!
A
QUARTER!







SUDDENLY, ROBIN TRIPS OVER A COIL OF ROPE AND FALLS MERCY TO THE KILLER CLOWN!



A RED HAZE OF FURY FILMS THE BATMAN'S EYES AS HE TURNS ABOUT TO SEE HIS YOUNG ADE'S BODY TUMBLE OVERBOARD--



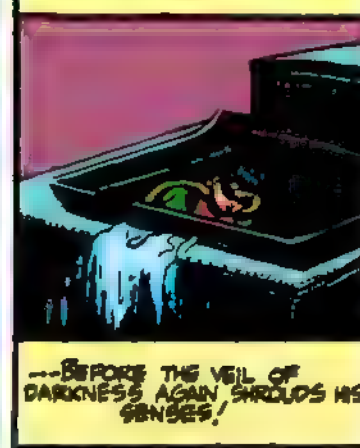
CAUGHT OFFGUARD AS HE LEAPS TO ROBIN'S RESCUE, THE BATMAN UNWITTINGLY LEAVES HIMSELF VULNERABLE TO ATTACK!



BELOW, THE ICY WATERS SHOCK YOUNG ROBIN BACK TO REALITY AND FOR SPLIT SECONDS HE HANGERS ON THE BRINK OF ETERNITY!



MASTERING ALL THE STRENGTH OF HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED MUSCLES, ROBIN MANAGES TO SCRAMBLE ABOARD THE REAR OF THE PATROL BOAT--UNSEEN--



ABOARD THE YACHT, THE GRIM JESTER TRIUMPHANTLY FACES HIS GREAT ENEMY-- AND BRINGS THEIR FAMOUS DUEL OF WITS TO AN END...

LET'S TAKE HIM TO CHARLIE'S. WE'LL DRESS HIM UP TO KILL--HA! HA!

NO, WE'LL KILL HIM HERE! DROWN HIM! LIKE HIS CHUM!

ROBIN LOST! A STRANGE DULLNESS GRIPS BATMAN'S HEART--AND BLACK DESPAIR NUMBS HIS BRAIN!

TIE HIM TO THE DAVIT! I'LL MAKE HIM SUFFER BEFORE HE DIES! THE BATMAN GAVE ME SOME TOUGH OPPOSITION--BUT I ALWAYS WIN AT THE END!

ROBIN, DEAD! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW!

WHEN THE BURNING FLEE REACHES THE ROPE-- WELL--I HATE TO SAY IT!

THE FLAME LICKS NEARER AND NEARER-- UNTIL--THE FIRST STRANDS OF THE ROPE ARE IGNITED!

PROPELLER LASHING THE WATER TO A WHITE FROTH, THE KILLER CLOWN STREAKS THE STOLEN SHIP TOWARD SHORE--UNWARE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS CARGO HE CARRIES IN THE REAR

LATER-- AS THE COAST GUARD BOAT DOCKS AT A DESERTED PIER-- THERE IS A Faint SIGN--THE FLUTTERING OF EYELIDS--AND ROBIN'S EYES OPEN--

WHERE AM I? OH, YES--I REMEMBER--GOSH! THEY GOT AWAY FROM THE YACHT! I'LL FOLLOW THEM--

WON'T THE BATMAN BE SURPRISED WHEN I LOCATE THE JOKER!

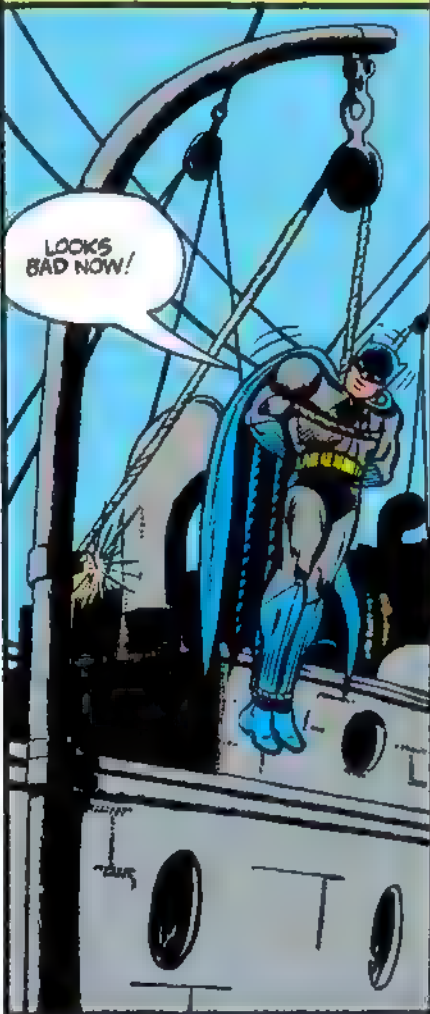
LITTLE DOES ROBIN REALIZE THAT AT THIS VERY MOMENT THE BATMAN IS ENGAGED IN A GRIM CONTEST WITH DEATH!

LATER--

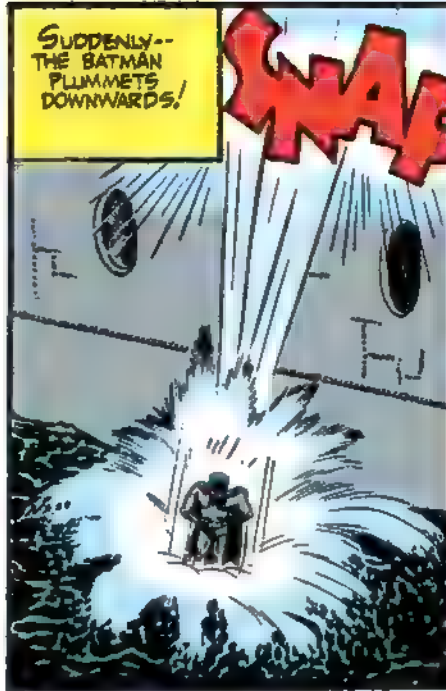
SO THAT'S THE JOKER'S HIDEOUT! I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE BATMAN!

MY WIRELESS JAMMED! WATER MUST HAVE LEAKED IN AND SPOILED THE MECHANISM! I CAN'T LEAVE HERE-- THE JOKER, MIGHT DECIDE TO BEAT IT! I'LL GET INSIDE AND SEE WHAT'S WHAT!

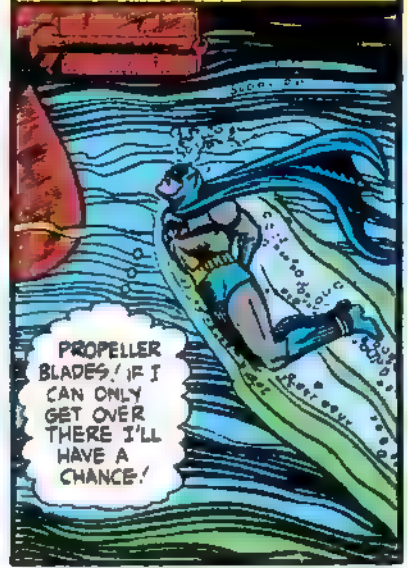
BACK ON THE YACHT, THE CRIME-FIGHTER'S LETHARGY IS REPLACED BY A TERRIBLE RAGE--- LIKE A SLUMBERING LION AROUSED, THE VENGEANCE-BENT BATMAN ESTIMATES HIS CHANCES OF ESCAPE!



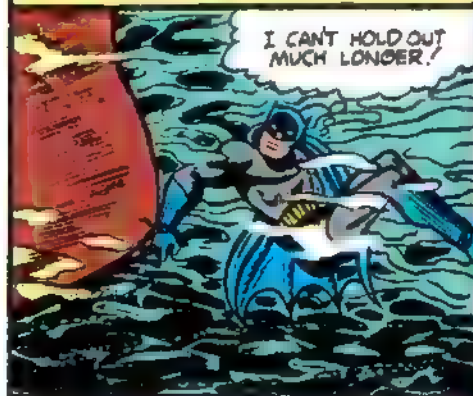
SUDDENLY-- THE BATMAN PLUMMETS DOWNWARDS!



BUT THE BATMAN IS FIGHTING NOW--- FIGHTING WITH THE HURRICANE FURY THAT HAS MADE HIM FAMOUS---



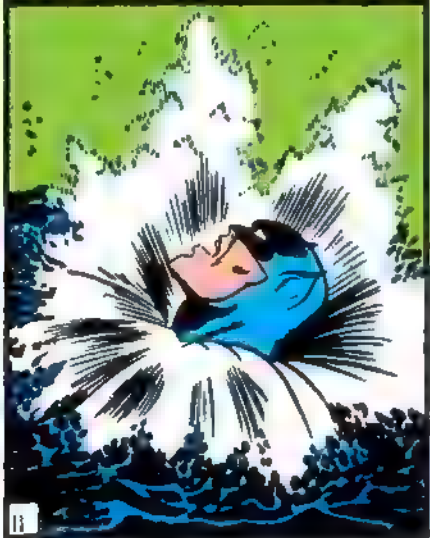
LIKE A GIANT EEL, HE WRITHES AND TWISTS THROUGH THE CHILL WATERS TOWARD THE KEEN KNIFE-LIKE BLADES--



--THE BATMAN STICCS TO HIS HOPELESS-SEEMING TASK UNTIL FINALLY--



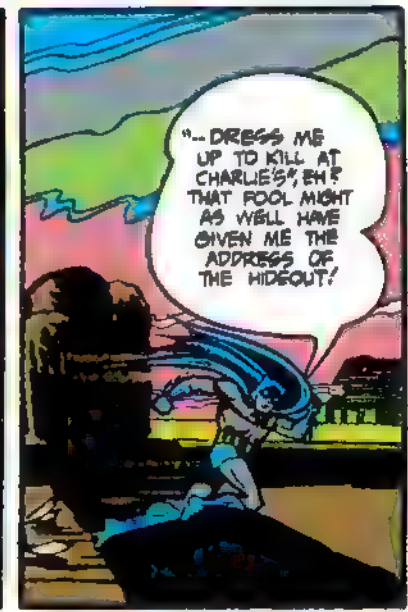
HIS ARMS EXPERTLY SLASHING THROUGH THE WATER, HE SHOOTS TO THE SURFACE.

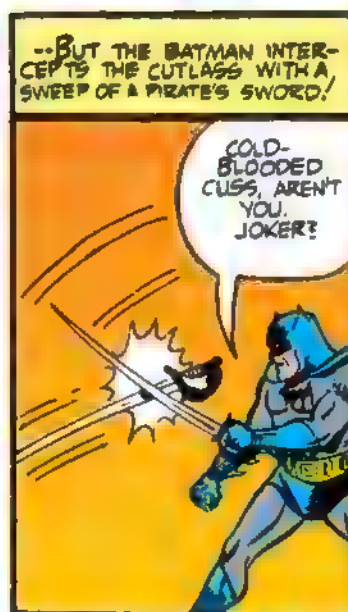
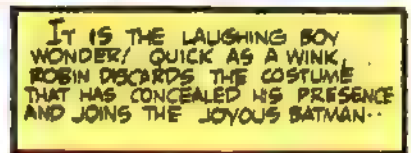
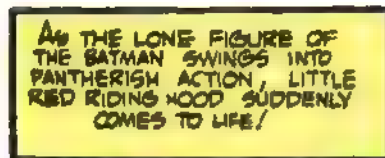
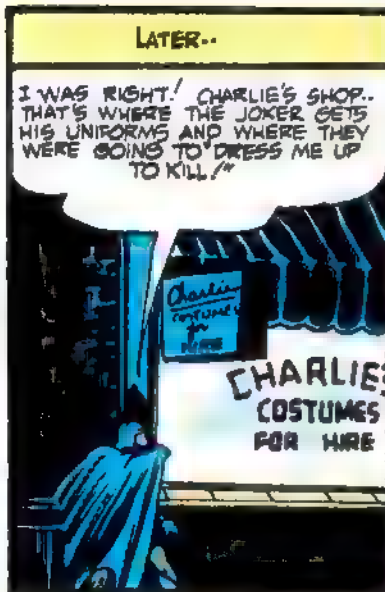


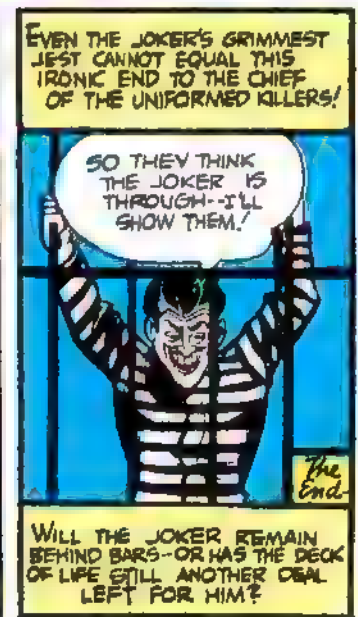
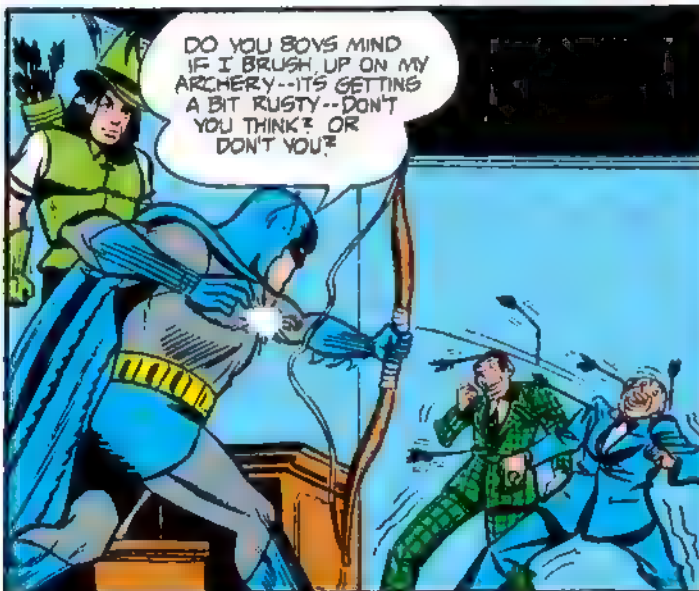
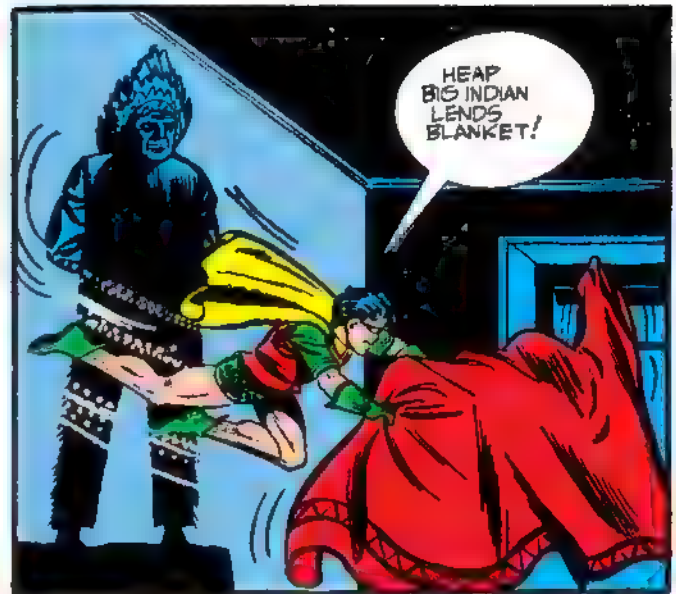
IT IS THE WORK OF A MINUTE TO FREE HIS LEGS, AND THEN -----



"-- DRESS ME UP TO KILL AT CHARLIE'S, EN? THAT FOOL MIGHT AS WELL HAVE GIVEN ME THE ADDRESS OF THE HIDEOUT!







No. 9

A SUPERMAN
PUBLICATION
IND

BATMAN

FEB.
MARCH



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

HERE IS A TALE OF MYSTERY AS OLD AS MAN IS OLD. A TALE, ALSO, OF FOUR SKEPTICAL, BIG-TIME RACKETEERS WHO FIND BLASTING GUNS HELPLESS AGAINST THE BLACK, RELENTLESS FORCES OF THE UNKNOWN! MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN—BATTLING THIS SAME VICIOUS CRIME BAND—COME UPON THINGS AND HAPPENINGS THAT EVEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN. MERE COINCIDENCE? PERHAPS—WHO CAN REALLY TELL? CAN YOU RIP AWAY THE VEIL OF MYSTERY THAT SHROUDS THESE INEXPLICABLE EVENTS—AND SOLVE THE BAFFLING RIDDLE OF ——— THE FOUR FATES!



THE SAGER EARS OF MILLIONS LISTEN TO THE BROADCAST--

TONIGHT WE ENTER ANOTHER HOME TO INTERVIEW ANOTHER INTERESTING PERSONALITY!

BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE AMONG THE LISTENING AUDIENCE--

ISN'T HE THE FELLOW I READ ABOUT RECENTLY-- WEARS A GIANT RUBY IN HIS TURBAN!

THAT'S RIGHT! A RUBY WORTH A KING'S RANSOM!

A SWITCH IS THROWN--AND THE MAGIC OF RADIO TRANSMITS THE ANNOUNCER'S VOICE TO MILLIONS.

JAFFEER, THE RADIO AUDIENCE IS WAITING TO HEAR YOU, SPEAK!

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, FOUR FUGITIVE FIGURES BASE THEMSELVES INTO THE JAFFEER MANSION--

BUT THIS JOB IS WORTH DOIN'-- THAT RUBY WE READ ABOUT MUST BE WORTH A MINT!

A LIGHT IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE! JAFFEER MUST BE SITTIN' UP READING!

THE THUGS PUSH OPEN A DOOR AND GET THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES!

STICK 'EM UP, JAFFEER OR-- HOLY SMOKE! HE'S ON THE AIR!

LADIES AND-- I--WHO?

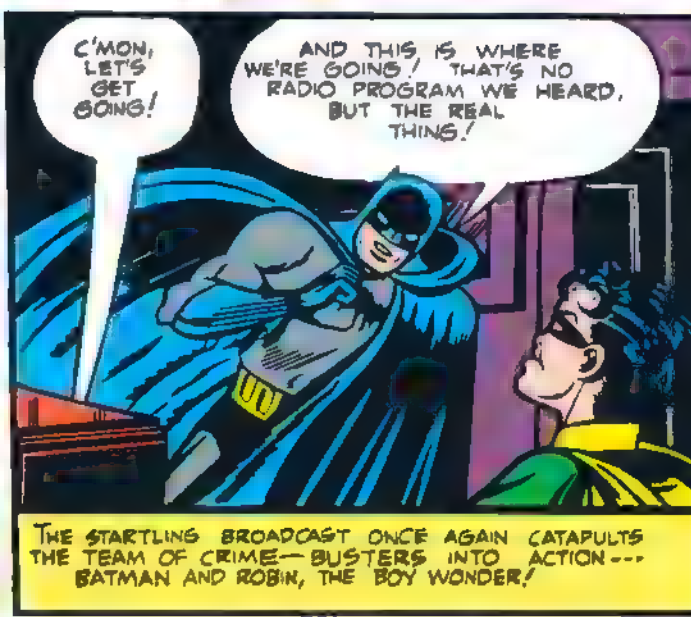
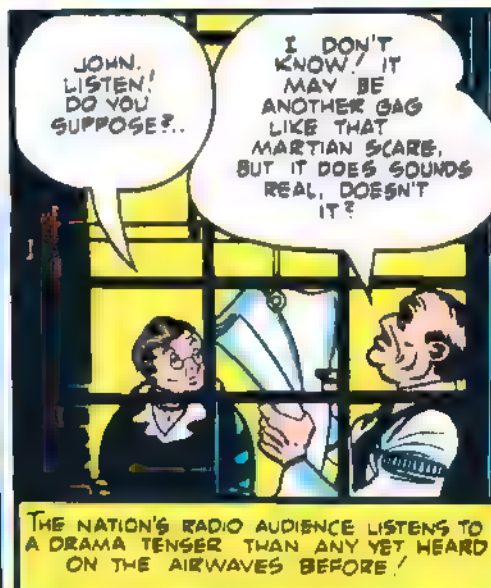
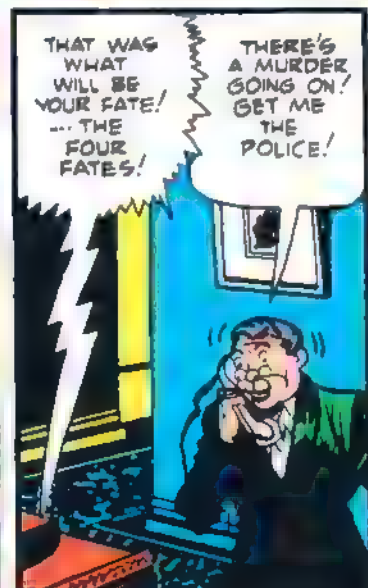
LIFT THAT ROCK, AND LET'S SCRAM!

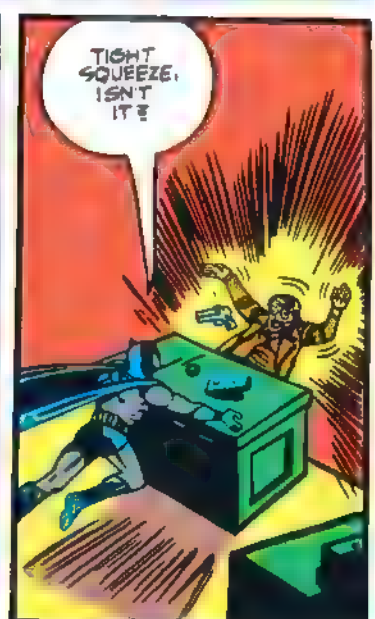
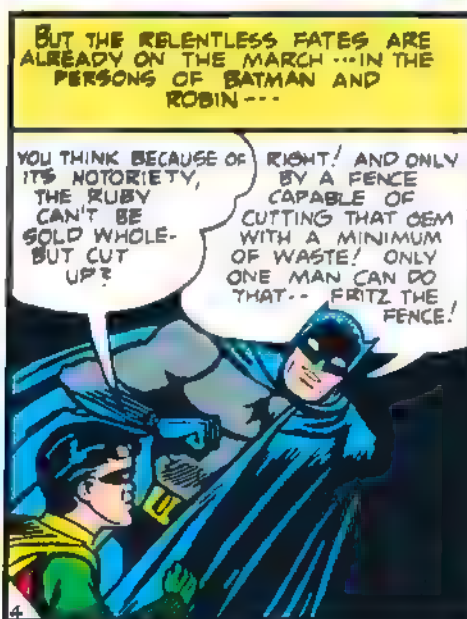
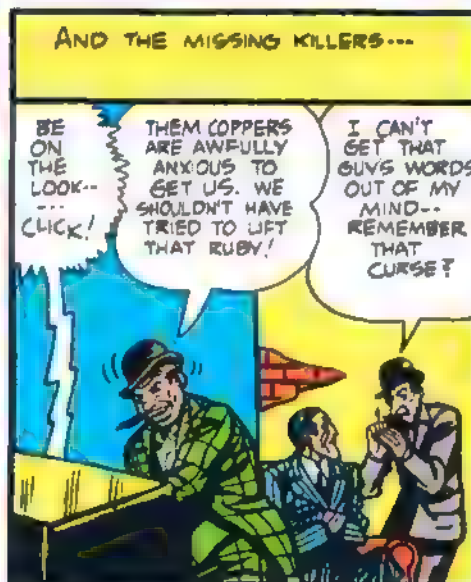
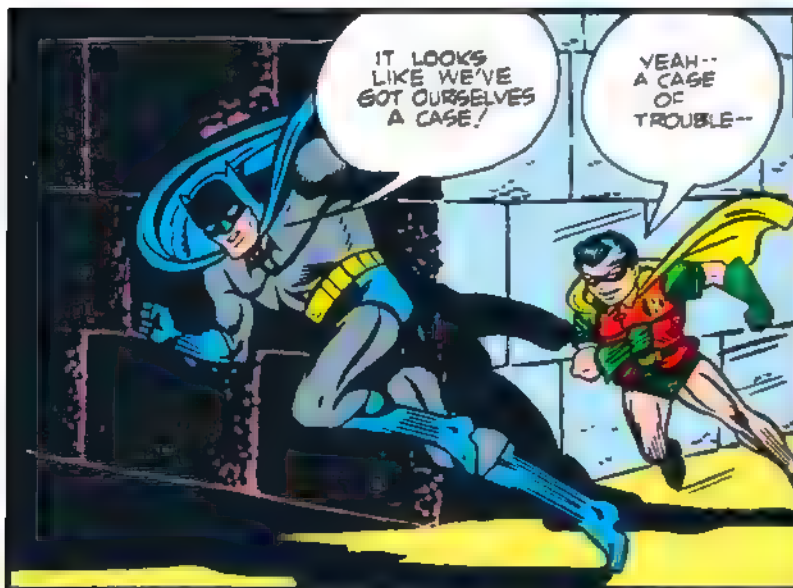
THAT'S IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

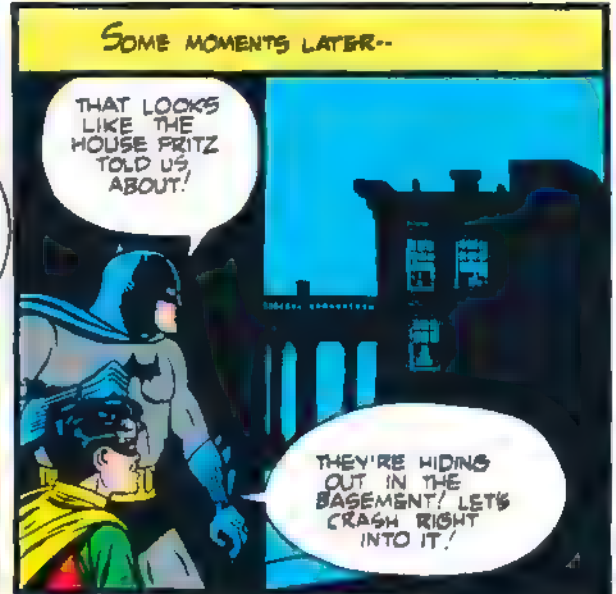
YOU--YOU FOOLS! YOU'VE STOLEN MY LIFE FROM ME! UPON YOU I CAST THE TERRIBLE CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES!

THE CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES!-- OUTSIDE THE VERY SKY ITSELF SEEMS ACCURSED--SEEMS TO FROWN AND GROAN AS THE DREAD WORDS ARE SPOKEN!

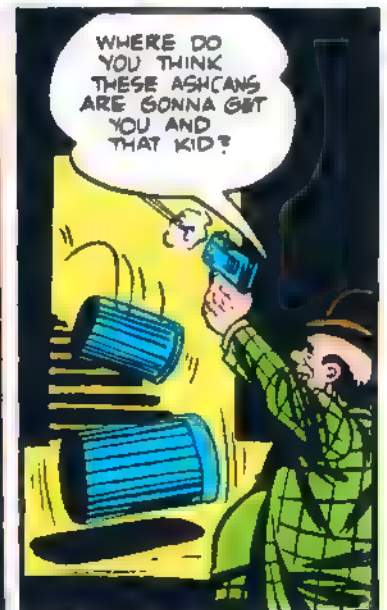
CRACK BOOM!

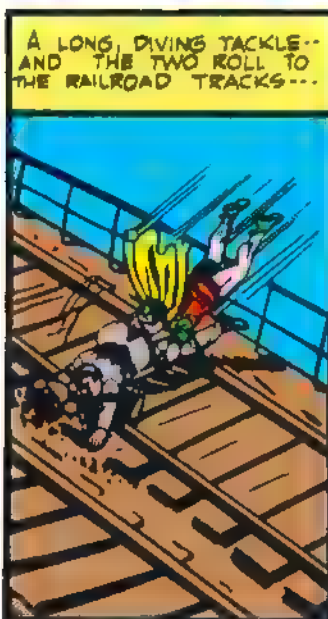
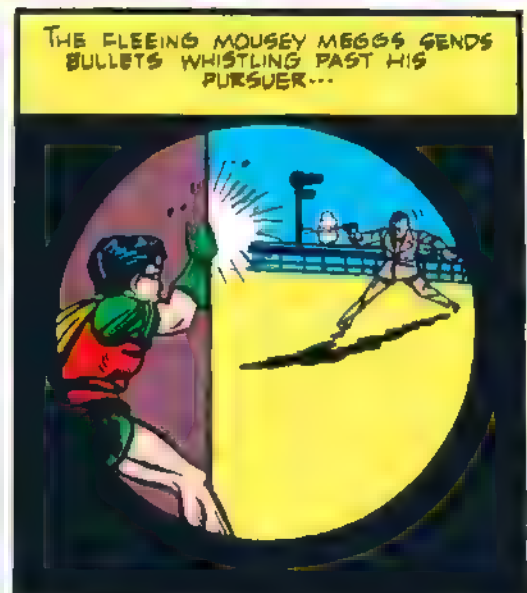
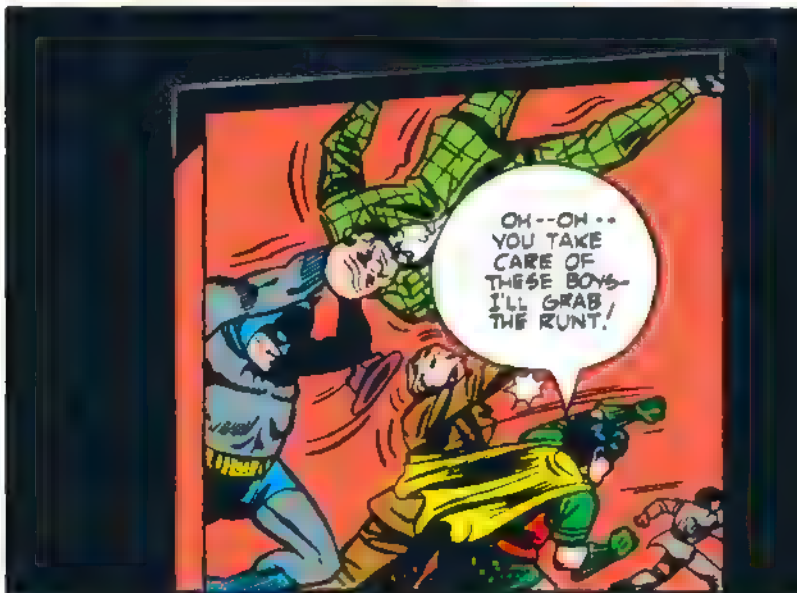
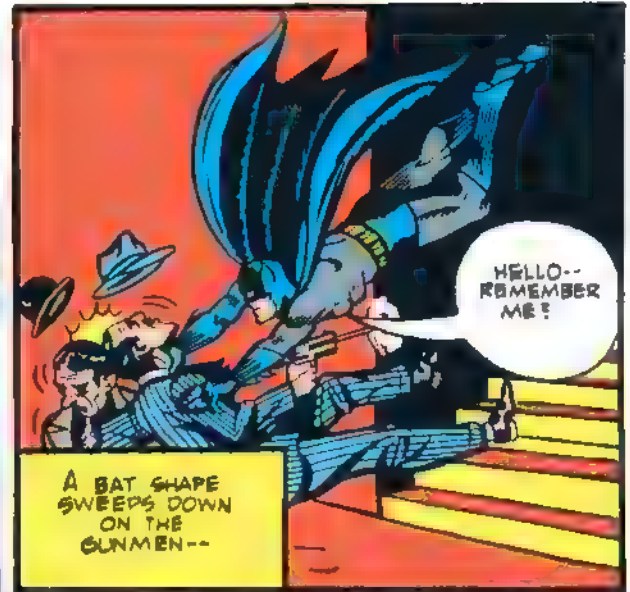






TWO SLAMMING BODIES RIP A ROTTED DOOR FROM ITS HINGES--AND ARE GREETED BY BLASTING GUNFIRE--





MEANWHILE, THE BATMAN HAS A MAN-SIZED FIGHT ON HIS HANDS, AS THE ESCAPED THUGS BATTLE DESPERATELY! SUDDENLY--A GUN CRASHES--



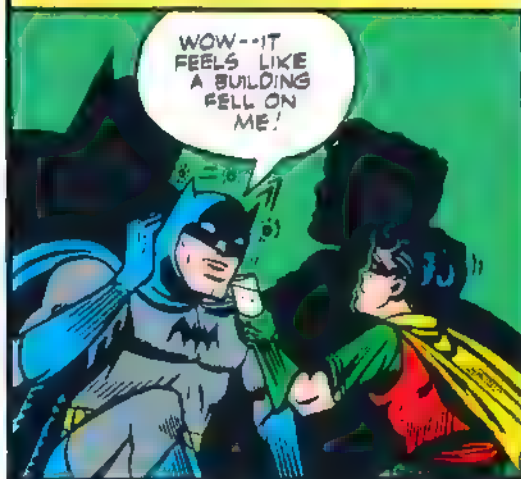
A SMART GUY THAT AINT SO SMART ANYMORE!

AND NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO GET OUT BEFORE THE COPS COME IN!

THIS GUY WILL KEEP... FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!



THE BATMAN DEAD? NOT QUITE, FOR THAT BULLET HAS ONLY CREASED HIS SCALP--AND SO--MOMENTS LATER--



ROBIN TELLS OF MOUSEY'S UNTIMELY DEATH--

SO--MOUSEY DIED JUST AS JAFFER SAID HE WOULD. I WONDER IF... BUT OF COURSE THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!



NEXT DAY.

MOUSEY DEAD! THE MYSTIC, REMEMBER?

YEAH--HOW LIGHTNING WAS GONNA GET HIM!

IT--IT'S JUST COINCIDENCE--IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ANYBODY.



YEAH! BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO ANYBODY--IT HAPPENED TO MOUSEY!

AW, WE'RE MAKING A LOT OF FUSS OVER NOTHIN'--AIN'T IT SO, BRAINS?

SURE--SURE, WE'RE JUST LETTING THIS GO TO OUR HEADS!



MEANWHILE--BATMAN AND ROBIN SCOUR THEIR FILE FOR A POSSIBLE CLUE TO THE MISSING MURDERERS.

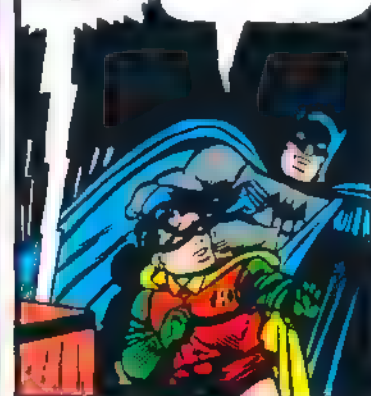
NOTHING HERE--NOTHING! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, GET SOME MUSIC ON THE RADIO TO EASE MY ACHING BRAINS!

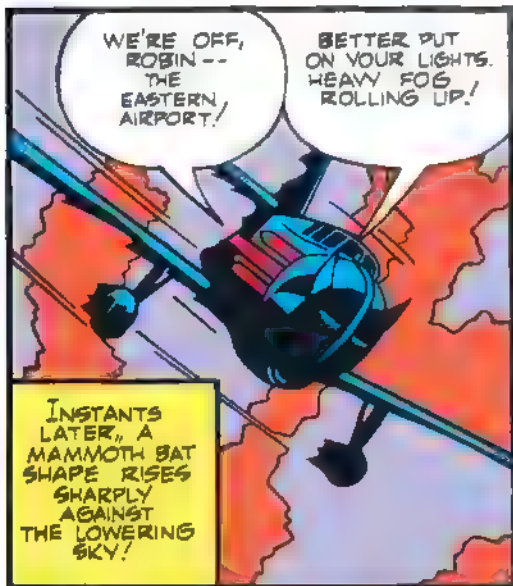
OKAY!



...THE MISSING SLICK DANIELS SEEN LURKING ABOUT THE EASTERN AIRPORT!

HOLY SMOKE! HE'S OUT TRYING TO STEAL A PLANE TO GET ACROSS THE STATE--ROLL OUT THE BATPLANE!





WE'RE OFF,
ROBIN --
THE
EASTERN
AIRPORT!

BETTER PUT
ON YOUR LIGHTS.
HEAVY FOG
ROLLING UP!

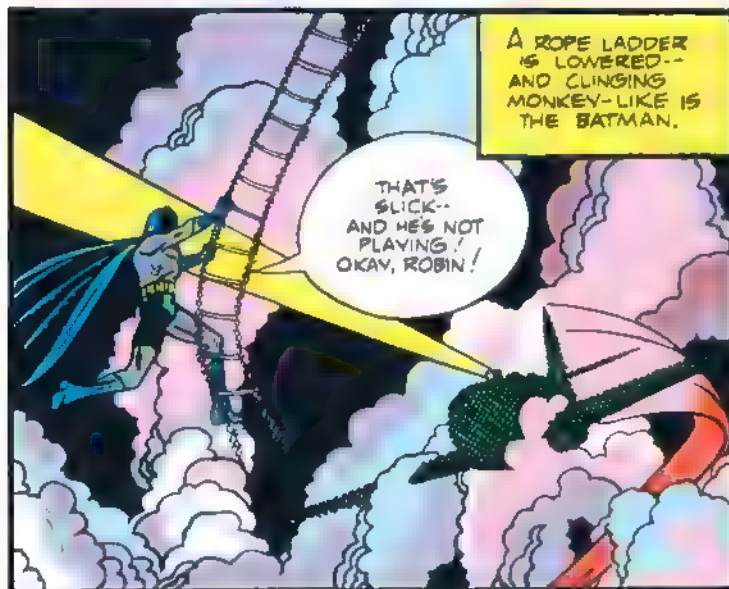
INSTANTS
LATER, A
MAMMOTH BAT
SHAPE RISES
SHARPLY
AGAINST
THE LOWERING
SKY!



LOOK!
I'LL BET
THAT'S SLICK
IN THAT
PLANE!

SOME TIME
AFTER--THE
BATPLANE'S BEAM
SEARCHES THE
HEAVY BANKS OF
BLACK FOG AND
CATCHES A MAN-
MADE MOTH
FLUTTERING IN ITS
LIGHT!

TRYING
TO MAKE
A GETAWAY!
TAKE THE
CONTROLS, ROBIN.
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO
DO!

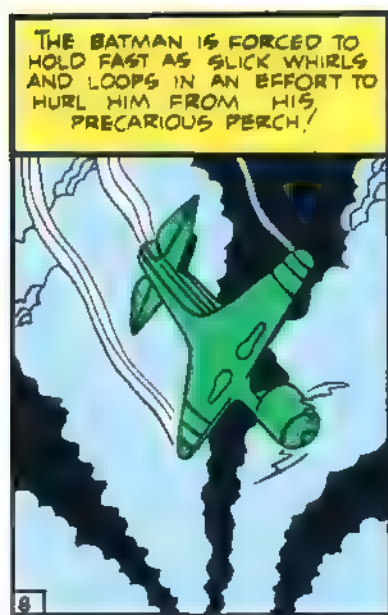


A ROPE LADDER
IS LOWERED--
AND CLINGING
MONKEY-LIKE IS
THE BATMAN.

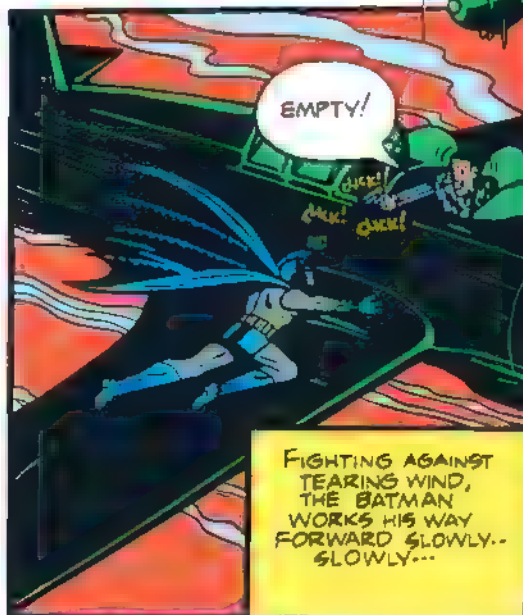
THAT'S
SLICK--
AND HE'S NOT
PLAYING!
OKAY, ROBIN!



CLEVERLY, THE
BOY MANEUVERS
THE BATPLANE
TILL IT HOVERS
ABOVE THE
FUGITIVE PLANE.
A DARING DROP
INTO SPACE
BY THE
BATMAN --



THE BATMAN IS FORCED TO
HOLD FAST AS SLICK WHIRLS
AND LOOPS IN AN EFFORT TO
HURL HIM FROM HIS
PRECARIOUS PERCH!



EMPTY!

FIGHTING AGAINST
TEARING WIND,
THE BATMAN
WORKS HIS WAY
FORWARD SLOWLY--
SLOWLY--

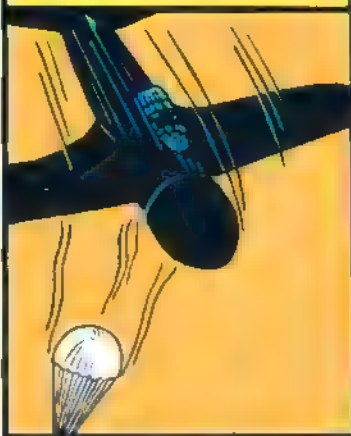


HELLO
SLICK!
FANCY
MEETING
YOU WAY
UP HERE!

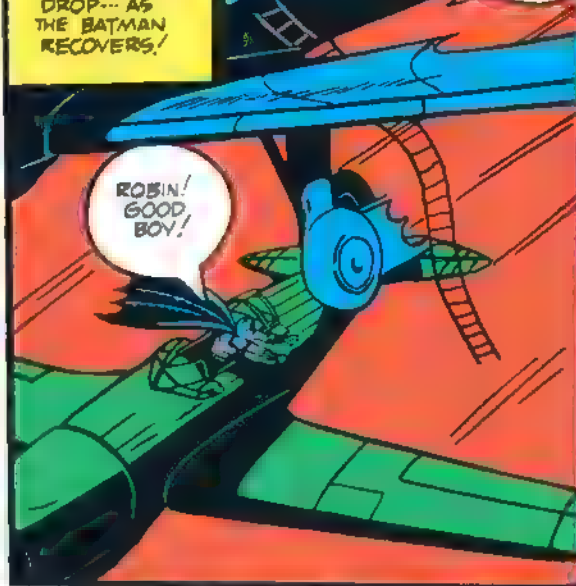
BUT SLICK LIVES UP TO HIS NAME! HIS HAND SNAKES OUT--A FIRE EXTINGUISHER EXTINGUISHES THE FIERY BATMAN--



WRECKING THE CONTROLS, AND LEAVING THE DAZED BATMAN IN THE PLUMMETING PLANE, SLICK JUMPS! FAR BELOW, HIS PARACHUTE BILLOWS OPEN---



BUT EVEN AS THE HELPLESS PLANE PLUNGES DOWNWARD, THE BATPLANE MATCHES ITS BREATHLESS DROP-- AS THE BATMAN RECOVERS!



THE ROPE LADDER! GRAB IT!

ROBIN! GOOD BOY!

A LEAP FOR LIFE!



WHERE'S SLICK?

DOWN BELOW! BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO GET AWAY IF I CAN HELP IT!



THE BATPLANE LANDS---BUT SLICK--

LOOK! HIS PARACHUTE LINES HAVE FOULED ON THE TELEPHONE WIRES AND ARE TANGLED 'ROUND HIS NECK!

IF WE DON'T CUT HIM DOWN IN TIME, HE'LL STRANGLE TO DEATH!



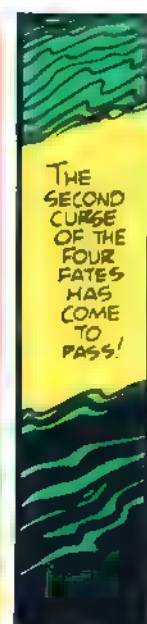
TOO LATE!

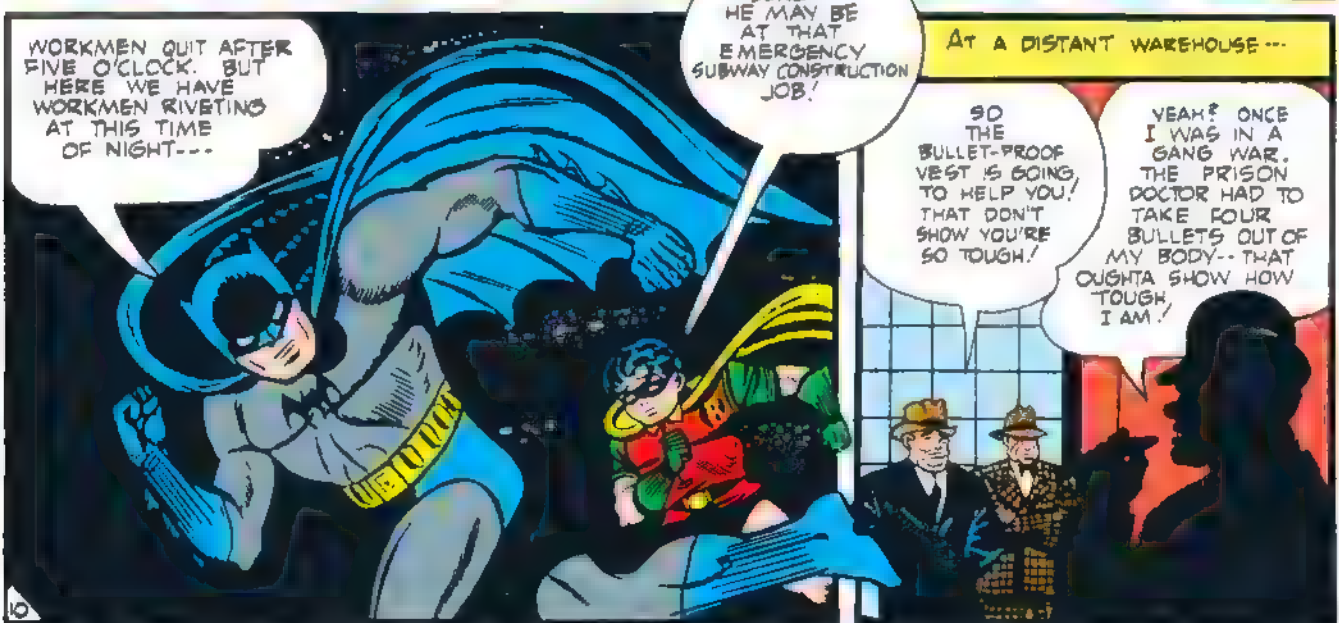
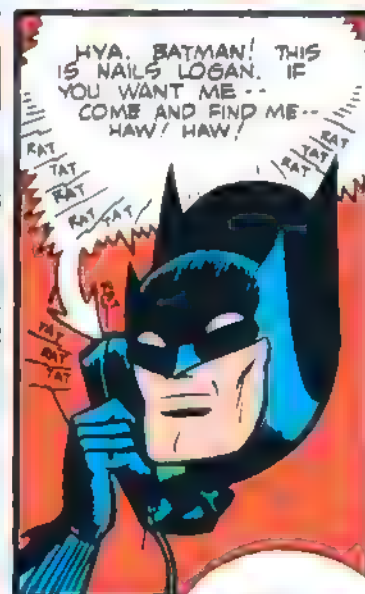
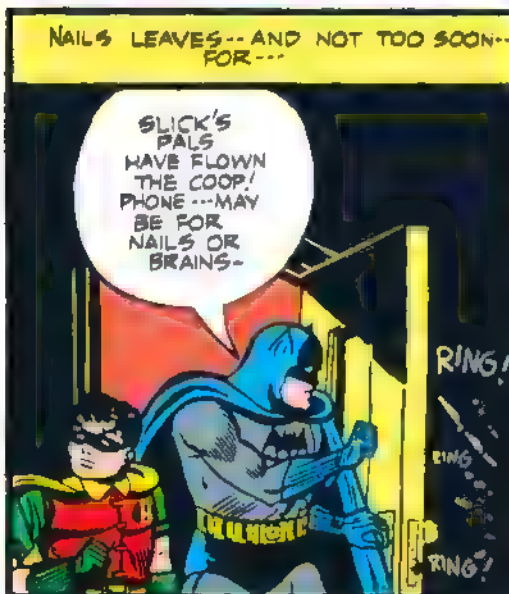
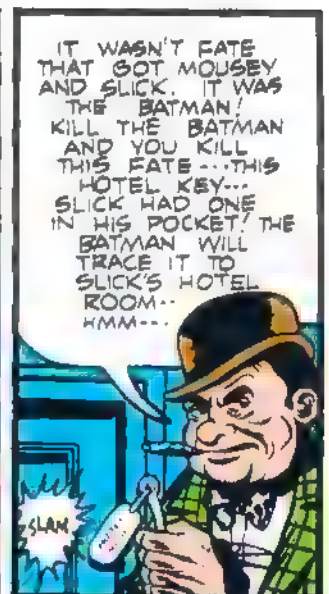
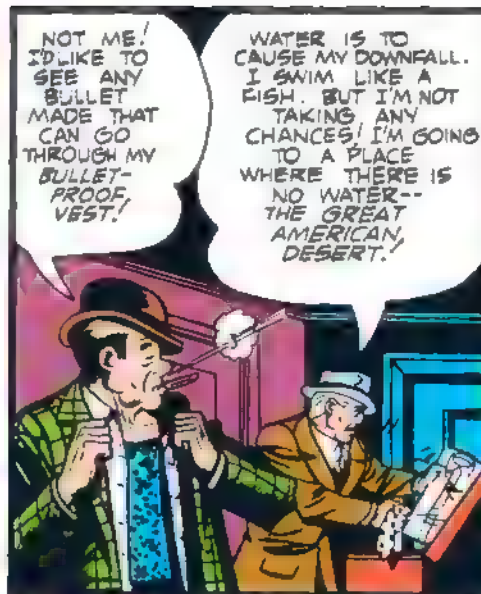
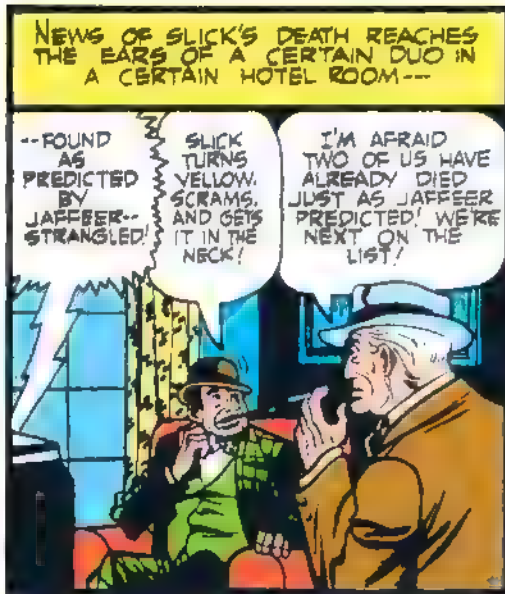
IT LOOKS AS IF FATE HAS CHEATED US OF BRINGING SLICK IN!

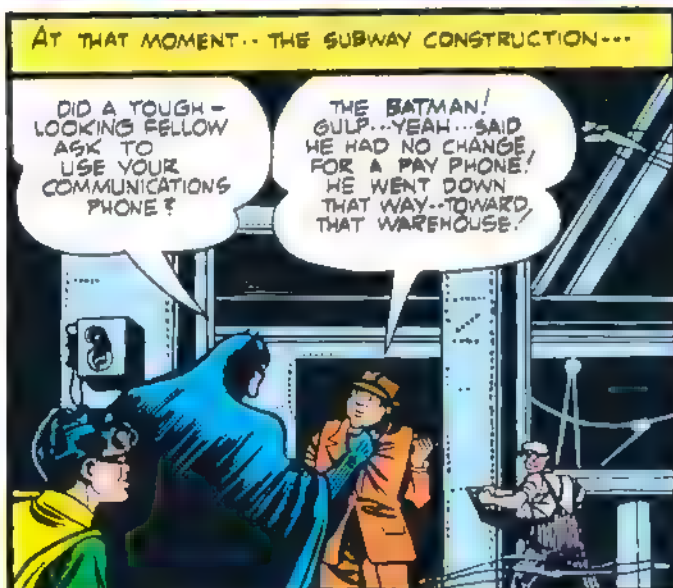
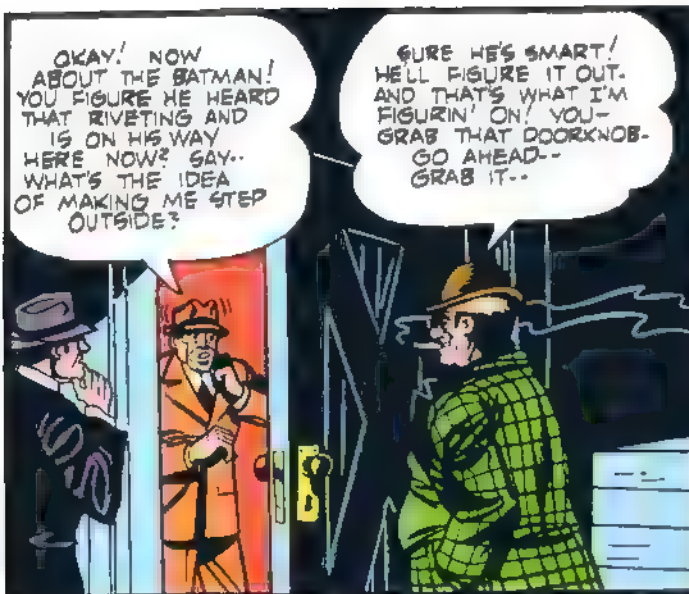


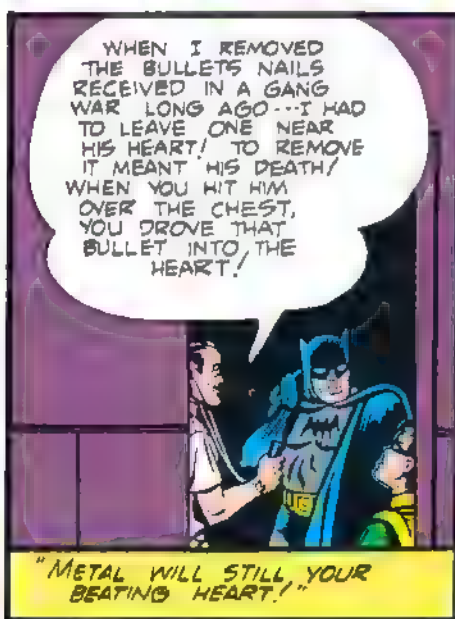
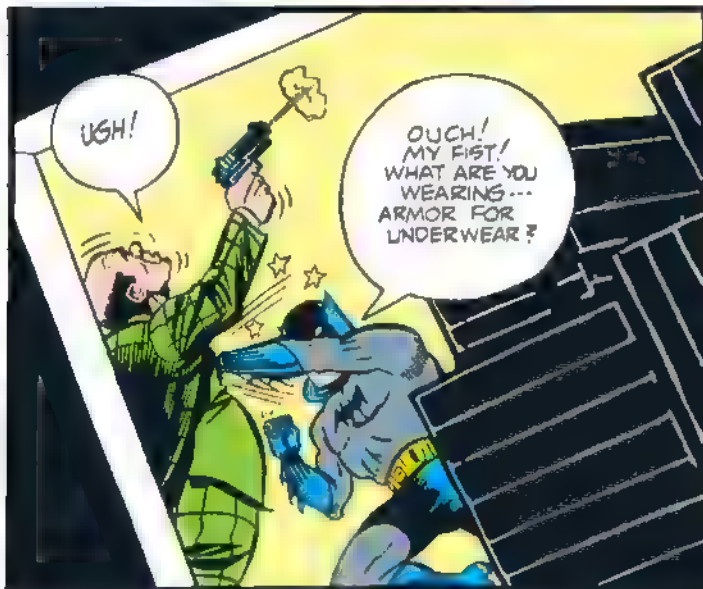
"AIR WILL BE CHOKED FROM YOUR LUNGS!"

THE SECOND CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES HAS COME TO PASS!

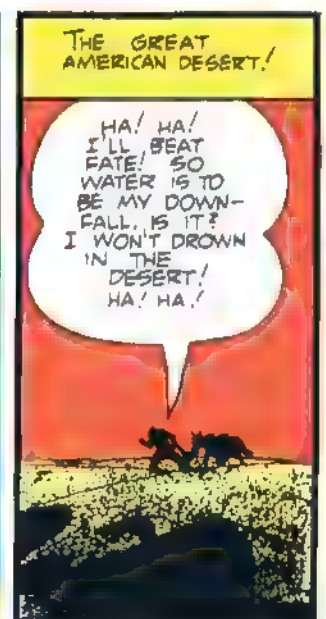


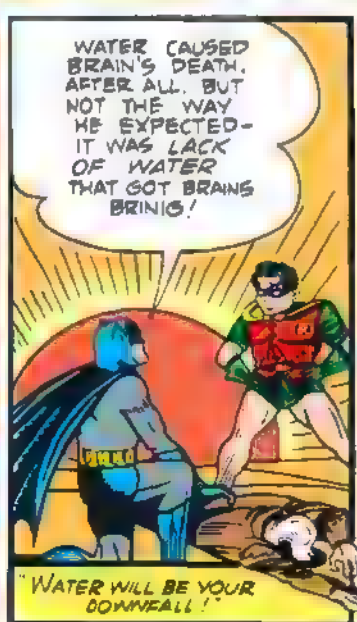
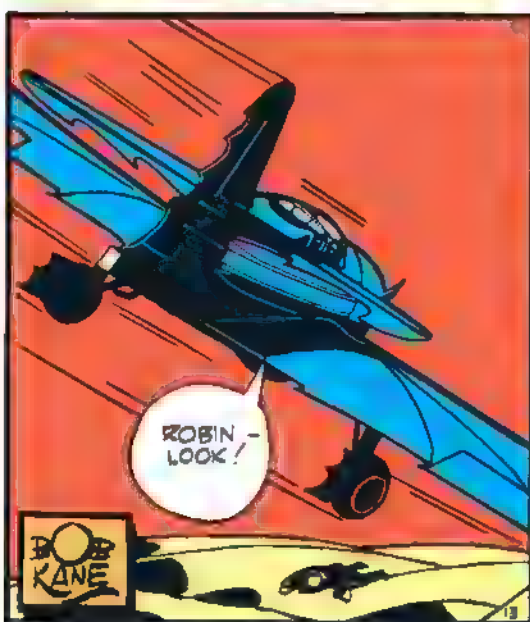
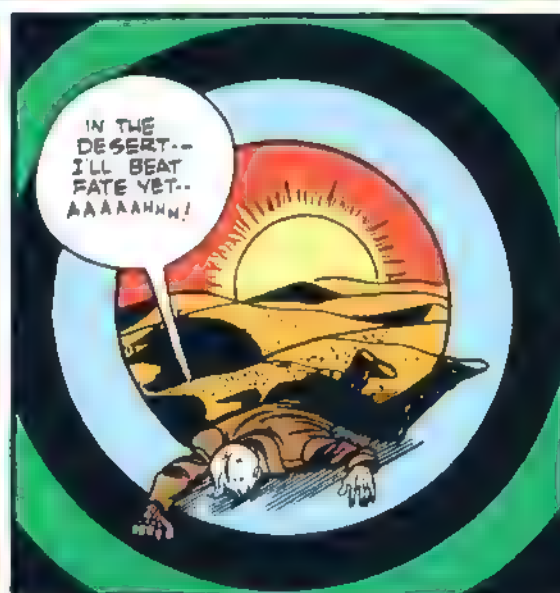
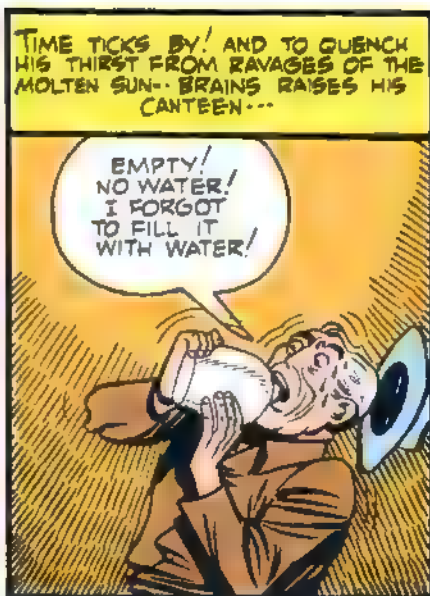
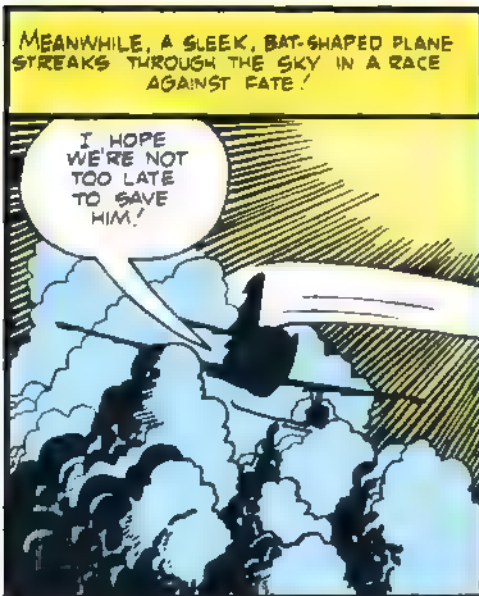




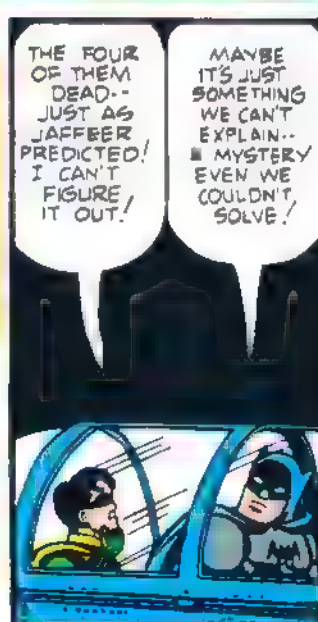


*The
THIRD
CURSE
OF
THE
FOUR
FATES
HAS
COME
TO
PASS!*





THE FINAL CURSE OF THE FOUR FATES HAS COME TO PASS!



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB
KANE

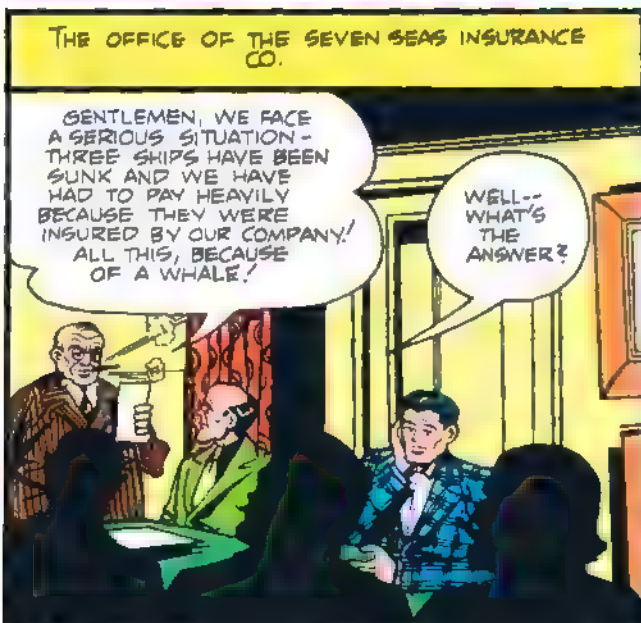
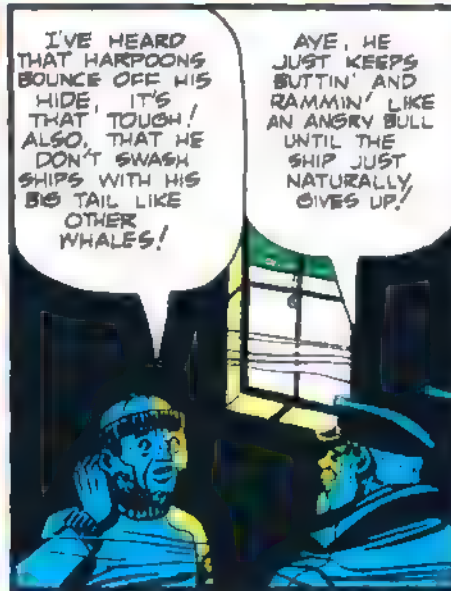
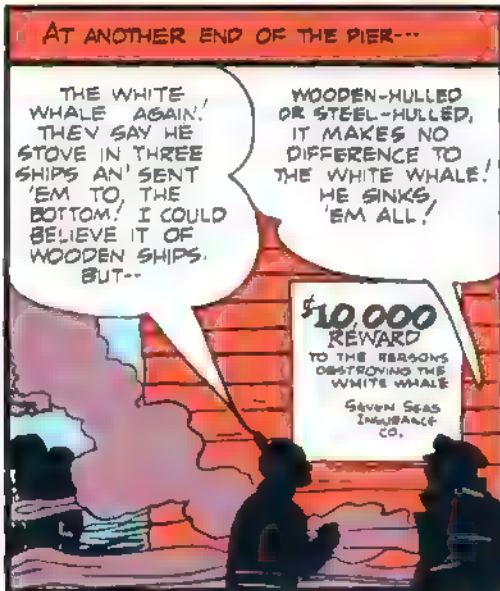
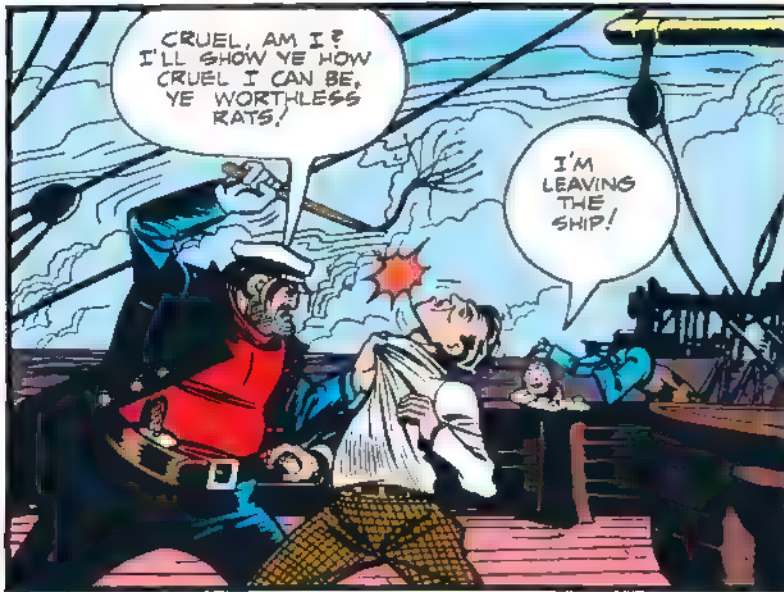
HERE IS A TALE OF THOSE
GIANT DENIZENS OF THE
DEEP--THOSE BATTLESHIPS OF
NATURE--WHALES! OF ONE
MAMMOTH WHALE IN PARTICULAR,
A TITANTIC, TEN-TON MONSTER,
THAT PLUNGES SHIPS TO DAVY
JONES' LOCKER--AND SCOURS
THE OCEAN IN ITS HUNT FOR
A HUNDRED JONAHS!
IN A SMASHING DRAMA
OF BRUTALITY AND FEAR--THAT
DYNAMIC DUO, THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN, TAKE HARPOON IN
HAND TO TRAP THE TERROR OF
THE SEAS--
THE WHITE WHALE!
BOY, IT'S TIME NOW TO BEGIN
OUR TALE FOR--
That's all, Blows!

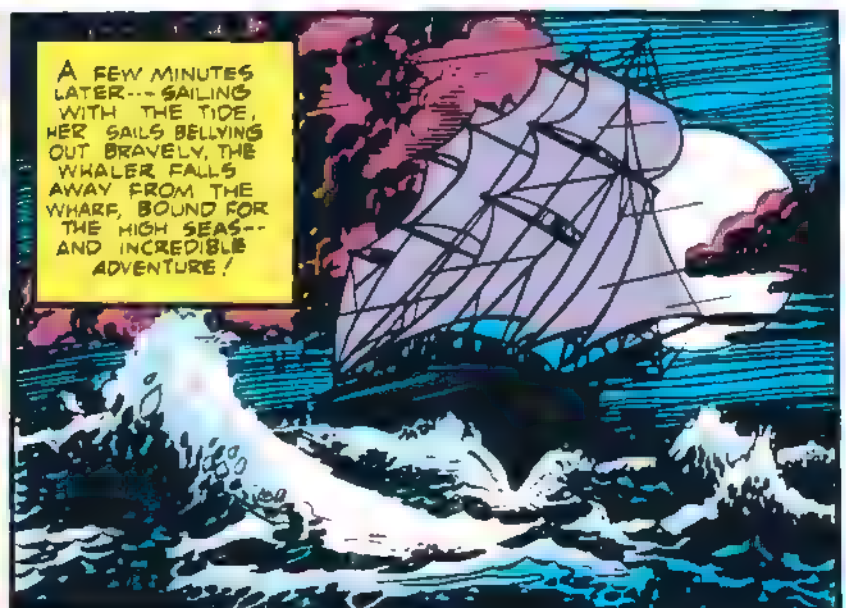
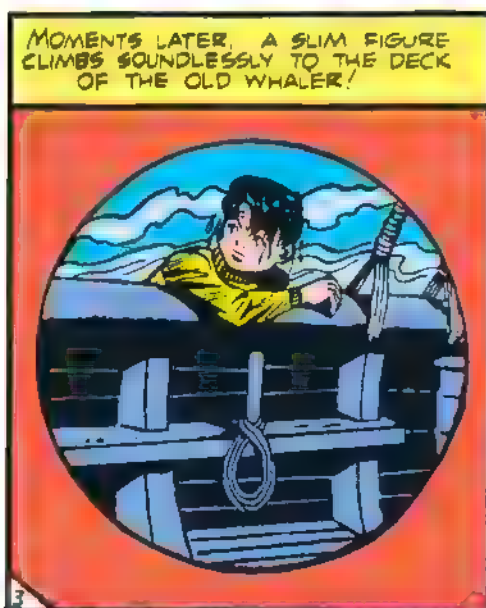
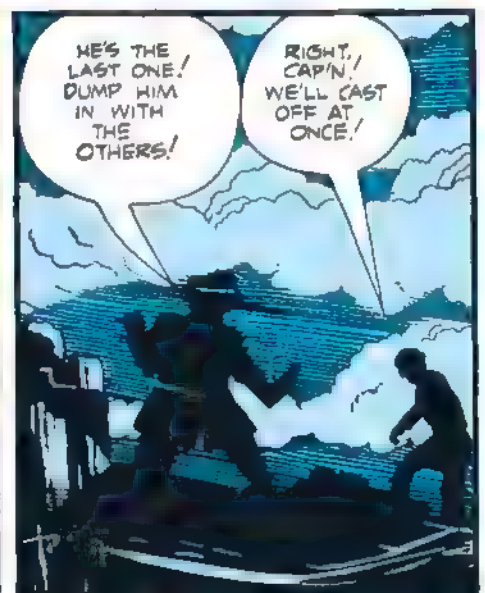
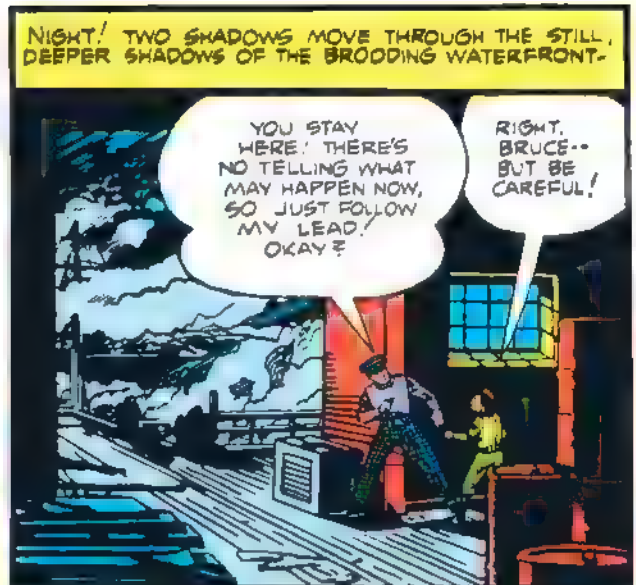
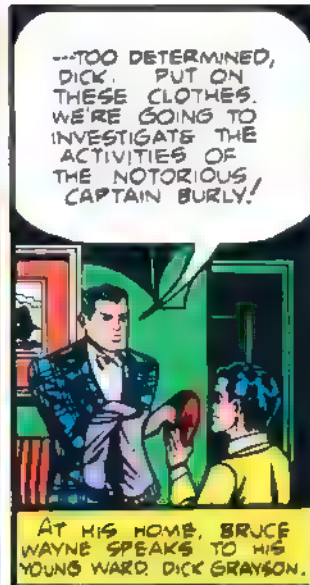
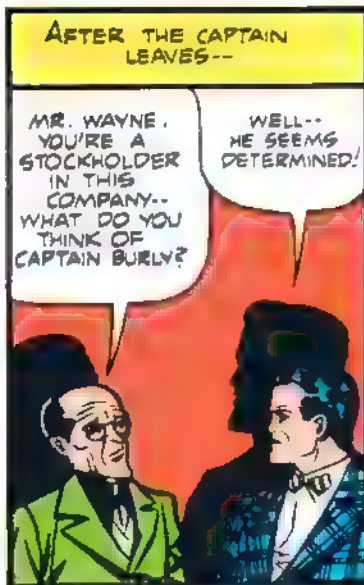
RIDING
AT
ANCHOR IN
THE PORT OF
GOTHAM
CITY IS A
SHIP--
LONG
SEASONED
AND
WEATHER-
STAINED,
AND WELL
SHE MIGHT
BE, FOR SHE
IS RARE CRAFT
INDEED--AN
OLD-FASHIONED
WOODEN-
HULLED
WHALE!

SO IT'S
MUTINY
NOW, IS
IT? YE
YELLOW-
LIVERED
COWARDS!

CALL IT
WHAT YOU
WILL! BUT
NONE OF
US IS GOIN'
AFTER THE
WHITE
WHALE!

NOT A KILLER
WHALE THAT'S
ALREADY SENT
THREE SHIPS
DOWN TO DAVY
JONES' LOCKER.
BESIDES--NONE
OF US WILL SHIP
WITH YE AGAIN!
YOU'RE A CRUEL
MASTER, CAPTAIN
BURLY!





LATER -- IN THE HOLD ----

SOMEBODY
STOP THAT
FLOOR FROM
SPINNING
AROUND!
OOOHHH!
DICK! WHERE
ARE WE?

ON THE
WHALE.
BROTHER--
YOU'VE BEEN
SHANGHAIED!

SHANGHAIED--
SO THIS IS HOW CAPTAIN
BURLY COLLECTED HIS
CREW! OH! OH!
SOMEONE'S REGAINING
CONSCIOUSNESS!

BETTER IF I'M
A SORT OF SECRET
ROUND HERE! I'LL
HIDE IN THAT
EMPTY OIL
BARREL!

MORNING-- AND THE MOTLEY
CREW IS ASSEMBLED ON DECK--TO
FACE CAPTAIN BURLY!

STOP YER SNIVELIN'--
ALL OF YE! I'M THE
MASTER HERE! LIKE
IT OR NOT, YER THE
CREW OF MY SHIP--AN'
WE'RE GOING AFTER
THE WHITE WHALE!

WOTS
TH' IDEA
O' SHANGHAING
US, CAPN?

PLEASE
TAKE ME BACK
HOME. I'LL
LOSE MY
JOB!

I'M NOT--
UGH!

UGH!

EASY,
LAD.
HE'S A
BAD
MAN!

BRASS
KNUCKLES!
THE
ROTTEN--

I'LL SOON TEACH
YE THAT MY WORD
IS LAW ABOARD THIS
CRAFT!

USING THE NAME "JACK TAR", BRUCE
ASSUMES THE ROLE OF A SEAMAN
WHILE DICK STOWS AWAY IN THE
HOLD!

UP YE GO,
YE LANDLUBBER--
LIVELY NOW, OR
I'LL TAKE A
CLUB TO
YE!

THEN --ONE NIGHT--

THAT MAN
IS WORKING
US TO DEATH!
HE'S A
TYRANT! I
THINK IT'S
TIME THE
BATMAN PUT
IN HIS
APPEARANCE!

AND DON'T
FORGET
ROBIN! BUT
HOW CAN YOU
DO IT
WITHOUT
AROUSING
SUSPICION
UPON
"JACK TAR?"

THE NEXT MORNING ---

MAN
OVERBOARD!
IT'S JACK
TAR! MAN
OVER-
BOARD!

SOMETIME LATER...

THAT JACK TAR SUNK LIKE A LOG!

NOT A TRACE OF HIM! SHALL WE SEARCH SOME MORE, CAP'N?

WE'RE SEARCHIN' FOR WHALES, NOT FOR MEN-- WE'RE SETTIN' FULL SAIL AHEAD!

BUT DOWN IN THE HOLD, "JACK TAR" IS VERY MUCH ALIVE.

NICE STUNT, THAT-- THROWING A RIGGED-UP DUMMY OVER-BOARD!

SAY-- SOMETHING'S UP!

I'LL TEACH YE TO SPLASH WATER OVER MY FEET---

SPREAD-EAGLED! AND HE'S GOING TO LACE INTO HIM WITH THE CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS!

THINK SO? I DON'T! INTO YOUR WORK CLOTHES, BOY!

A QUICK DISCARD OF OUTER CLOTHING--AND TWO CAPED FIGURES CHARGE TO THE DECK--

I'LL TAKE THIS--AND YOU TAKE THIS!

THAT'S THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

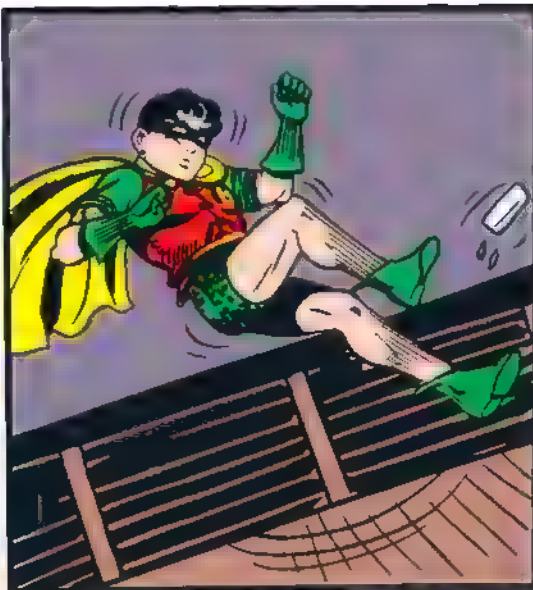
WH-AT? ON MY SHIP? THEY MUST HAVE STOWED AWAY! I'LL SHOW 'EM HOW I TREAT SNOOPERS!

HOW'RE YOU DOING, ROBIN?

I'M GETTING ALONG!

UH--UH! ATTACK FROM THE REAR-- HAVE TO STOP IT--

BUT EAGER ROBIN HAS NO EYES FOR THE SOAP UNDERFOOT, AND---



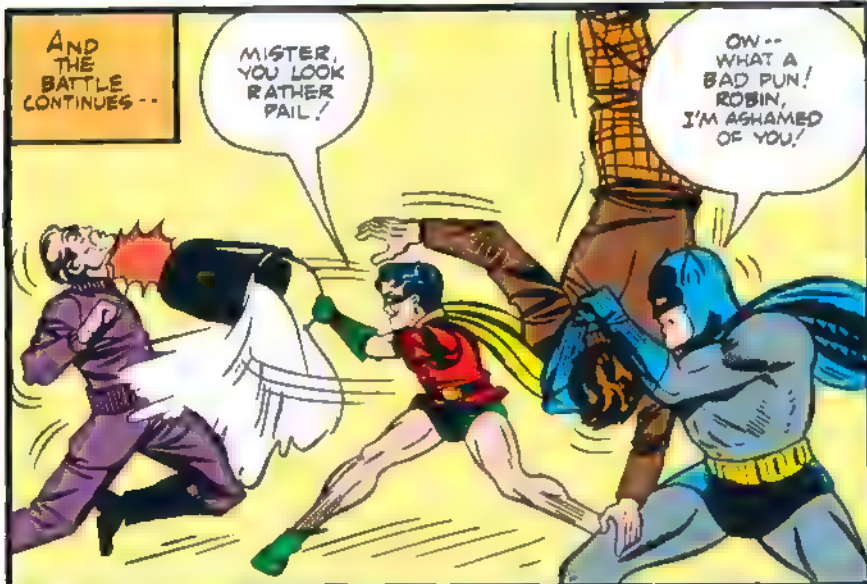
GLU---MMM..



AND THE BATTLE CONTINUES---

MISTER, YOU LOOK RATHER PALE!

OW-- WHAT A BAD PUN! ROBIN, I'M ASHAMED OF YOU!



THEN ALL FREEZE STOCK-STILL AS A LOUD CRY IS HEARD---

THAR SHE BLOWS! A WHALE... A WHALE!



IN THE DISTANCE, A THIN, CRESTED SPOUT OF VAPOR RISES INTO THE AIR, INDICATING A BLOWING WHALE!



INTO THE BOAT WITH YE! YOU'RE GOIN' A-WHALIN' THIS DAY! WE'LL SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES LATER!



TRUE WHALERS, THE SEAMEN FORGET THEIR QUARRELS AS AN EXCITING WHALE HUNT LOOMS AHEAD!

① THE CHASE IS ON! THRASHING OARS SEND BOATS HISsing THROUGH THE WAVES.

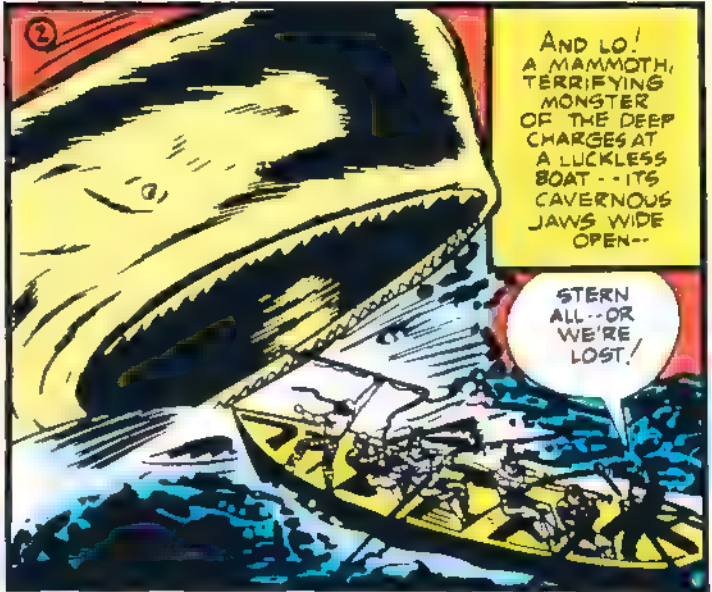
HEAVE! HEAVE! BLAST YE! PULL UNTIL YE BREAK THE OARS! IF YE CAN'T BREAK 'EM, BREAK YER BACKS! HEAVE, HEAVE!



②

AND LO! A MAMMOTH, TERRIFYING MONSTER OF THE DEEP CHARGES AT A LUCKLESS BOAT -- ITS CAVERNOUS JAWS WIDE OPEN--

STERN ALL--OR WE'RE LOST!



③ ONE HORRIFYING MOMENT AS THE PONDEROUS JAWS SNAP SHUT, AND THE BOW OF THE BOAT CRUMPLES INTO SPLINTERS!



④ THEN UNEXPECTEDLY, THE ANGRY WHALE TURNS ON ANOTHER BOAT. THE FLUKES OF ITS VAST TAIL SWEEP ROBIN AND THE HARPOONER INTO THE CHURNING WATERS!



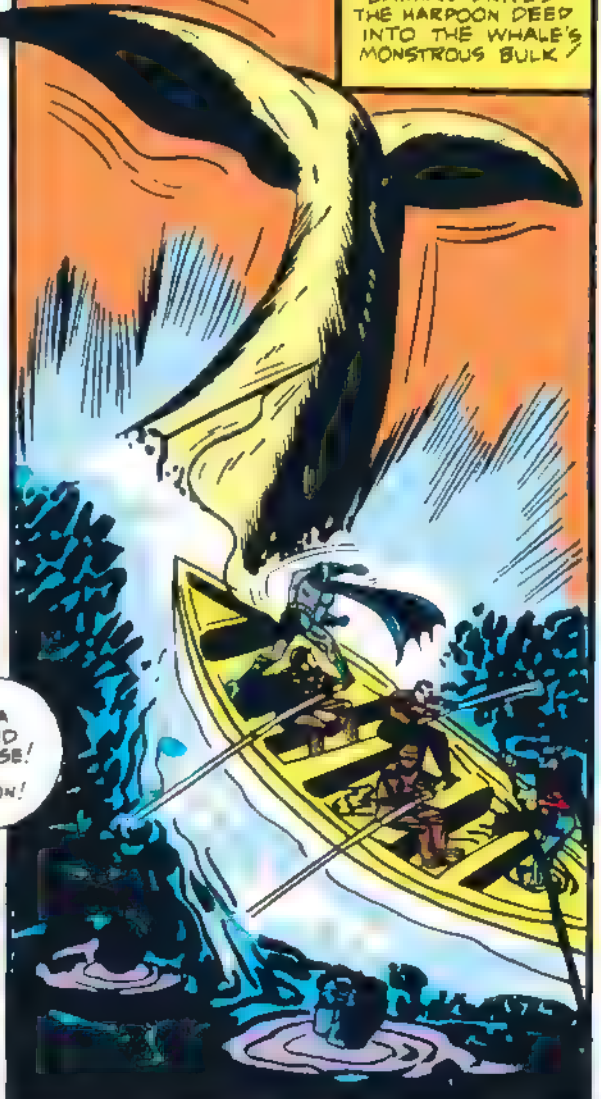
⑤ THE TREMENDOUS TAIL LASHES THE OCEAN INTO FOAM--THREATENING AT ANY MOMENT TO SMASH ROBIN AND THE HARPOONER!



NOT A SECOND TO LOSE! THAT HARPOON!

⑥

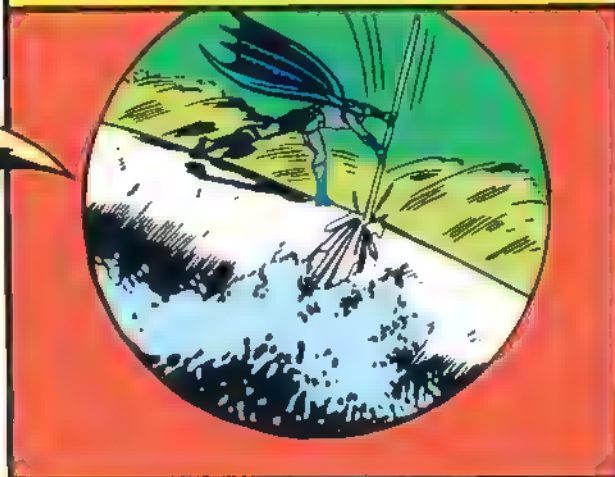
BRACING HIMSELF ON THE BUCKING BOAT, THE BATMAN DRIVES THE HARPOON DEEP INTO THE WHALE'S MONSTROUS BULK!



LANCE IN HAND, THE BATMAN JUMPS FEARLESSLY TO THE VAST GLISTENING BACK OF THE LEAPING WHALE!



THE LANCE FLASHES IN THE SUN FOR AN INSTANT AND THEN HISSES DOWN LIKE A STREAK OF WHITE FLAME!

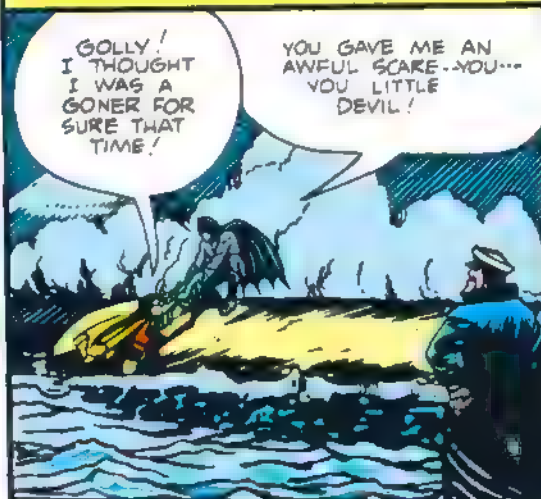


AND PLUNGES DEEP INTO THE SEA BEAST WHO STARTS TO ROLL OVER ON ITS SIDE!



IT'S ALL OVER NOW... WHEW!

THE BATMAN'S FIRST THOUGHT IS OF HIS PAL, ROBIN-



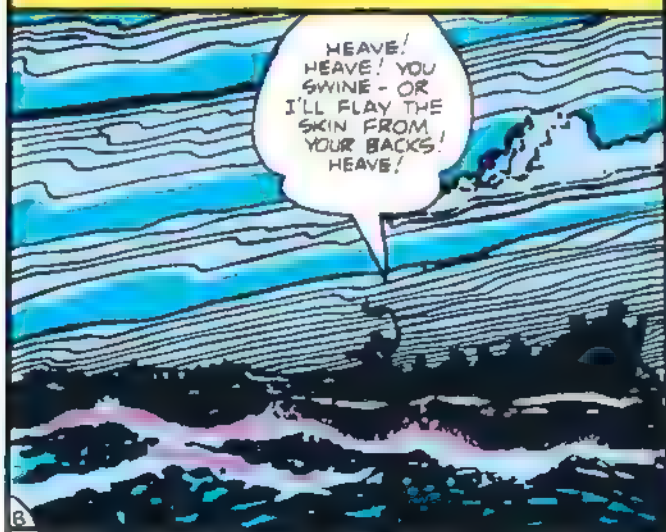
GOLLY! I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER FOR SURE THAT TIME!

YOU GAVE ME AN AWFUL SCARE--YOU-- YOU LITTLE DEVIL!

CUT OUT THE SENTIMENTAL ACT, YOU TWO--OR YOU'LL HAVE ME IN TEARS IN A MINUTE! GET TO WORK WITH THE REST OF THE CREW!

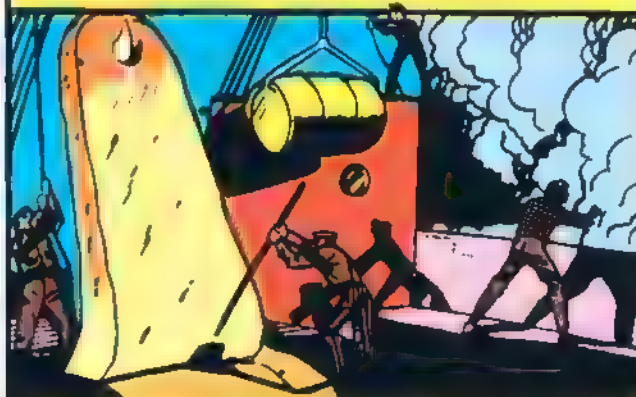


THE HUGE WHALE IS THEN TIRELESSLY TOWED BACK TO THE VESSEL---

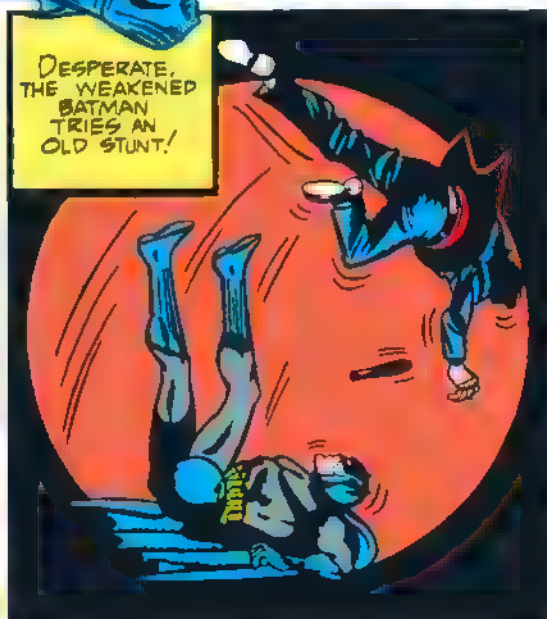
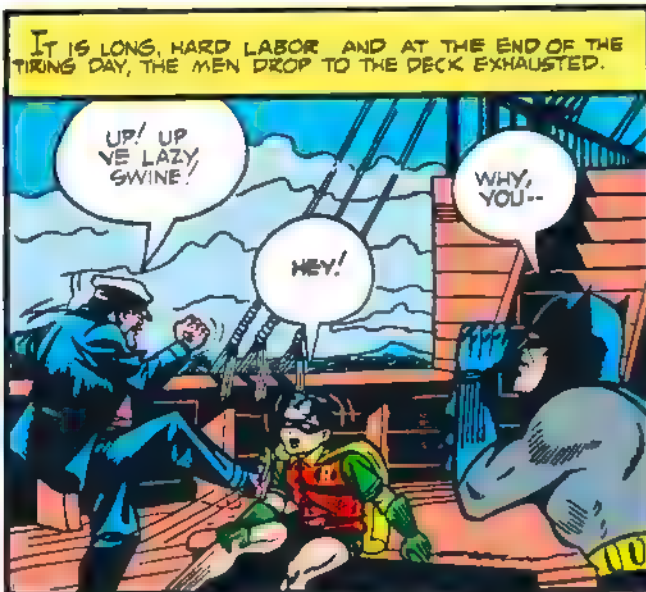


HEAVE! HEAVE! YOU SWINE - OR I'LL FLAY THE SKIN FROM YOUR BACKS! HEAVE!

THE CUTTING-IN BEGINS! WITH LONG SPADES THE SEAMEN PEEL OFF THE THICK BLANKET OF BLUBBER AND HUST IT TO THE DECK WHERE IT IS "MINCED" OR SLICED INTO SMALL PIECES--



--AND THEN DUMPED INTO HUGE TRYPOTS, WHERE THE OIL IS BOILED FROM THE BLUBBER!

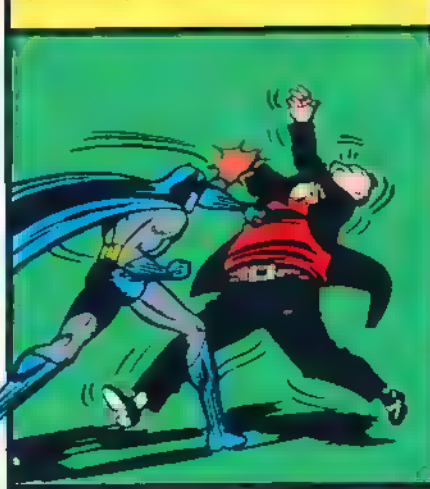


COMING TOGETHER AGAIN LIKE SAVAGE BEASTS, THE TWO FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL!

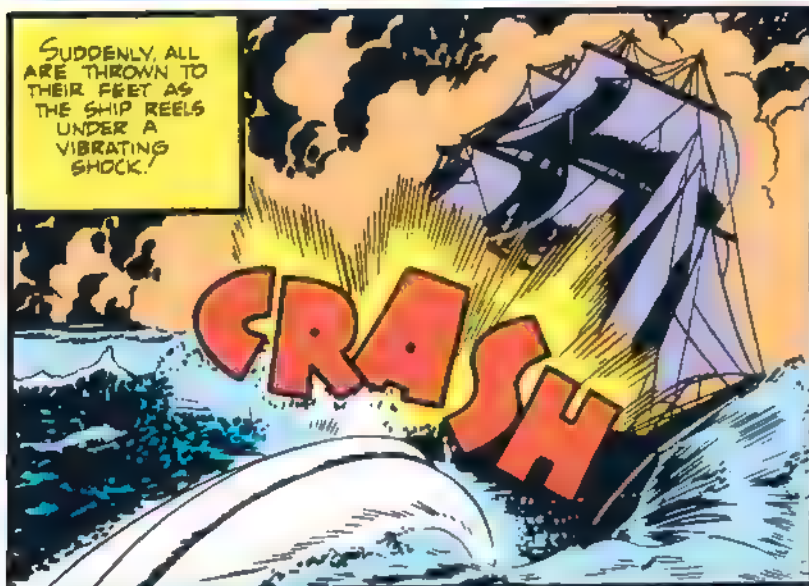


I'LL CHOKE THE LIVING BREATH FROM YOUR BODY!

WITH A SURGE OF SUDDEN STRENGTH, THE BATMAN RIPS HIMSELF LOOSE. HE CLAMPS HIS FINGERS INTO A BALLED FIST AND--



--TEARS INTO THE BRUTAL CAPTAIN WITH WILD FURY! RIGHT AND A LEFT--ANOTHER LEFT--AND THEN A FINAL TERRIBLE RIGHT--AND IT'S ALL OVER!



SUDDENLY, ALL ARE THROWN TO THEIR FEET AS THE SHIP REELS UNDER A VIBRATING SHOCK!



IT'S HIM-- THE WHITE WHALE!

WE'RE DOOMED!

WHHHH!

HEAVING UP OUT OF THE SEA IS A COLOSSAL MOUNTAIN--LIVID, GHASTLY WHITE--A WHALE OF ALL WHALES-- THE WHITE WHALE!



W-WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!

HE'S GOING TO CHARGE US AGAIN! WE'VE GOT TO DIVERT HIS ATTENTION SOMEHOW!

I GOT IT--THE CAPTAIN--LET'S SHOVE HIM IN A BOAT AND WHILE THE WHALE GOES FOR HIM WE'LL STEER AWAY FROM HERE FAST!

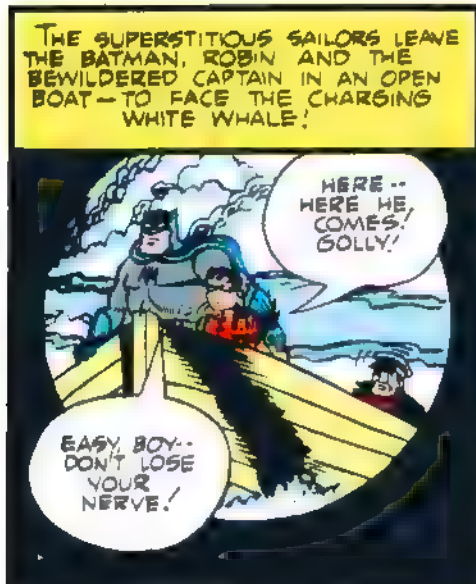


BUT IT'S COLD-BLOODED MURDER!

MAYBE YOU AIN'T ANXIOUS TO GET RID O' THE CAPTAIN, BUT WE ARE!

PUT THE BATMAN AND THAT KID IN THE BOAT TOO! WE CAN'T LET THEM LIVE TO REPORT THIS MUTINY!

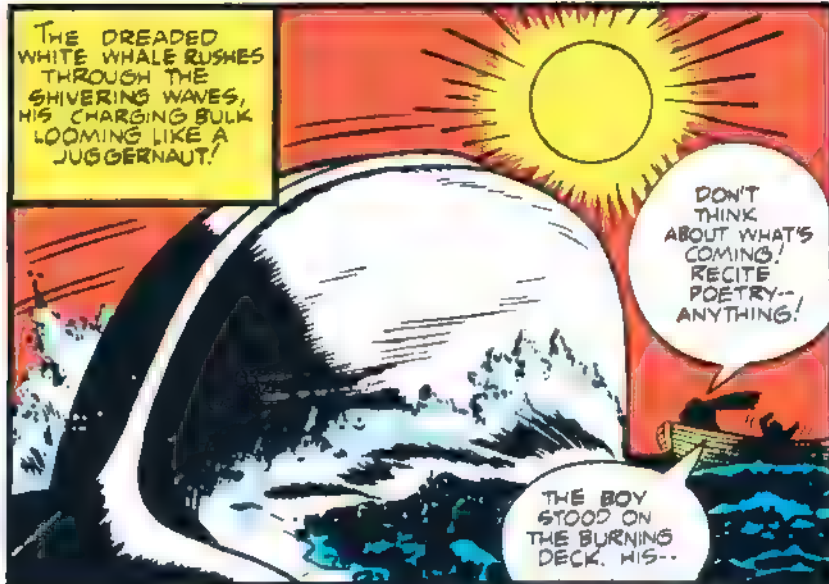
THE SUPERSTITIOUS SAILORS LEAVE THE BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE BEWILDERED CAPTAIN IN AN OPEN BOAT--TO FACE THE CHARGING WHITE WHALE!



HERE -- HERE HE COMES! GOLLY!

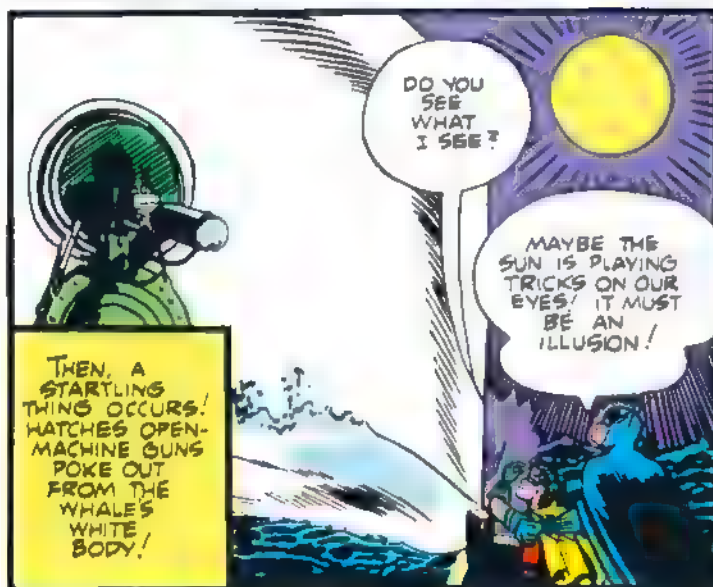
EASY BOY-- DON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE!

THE DREADED WHITE WHALE RUSHES THROUGH THE SHIVERING WAVES, HIS CHARGING BULK LOOMING LIKE A JUGGERNAUT!



DON'T THINK ABOUT WHAT'S COMING! RECITE POETRY-- ANYTHING!

THE BOY STOOD ON THE BURNING DECK. HIS--

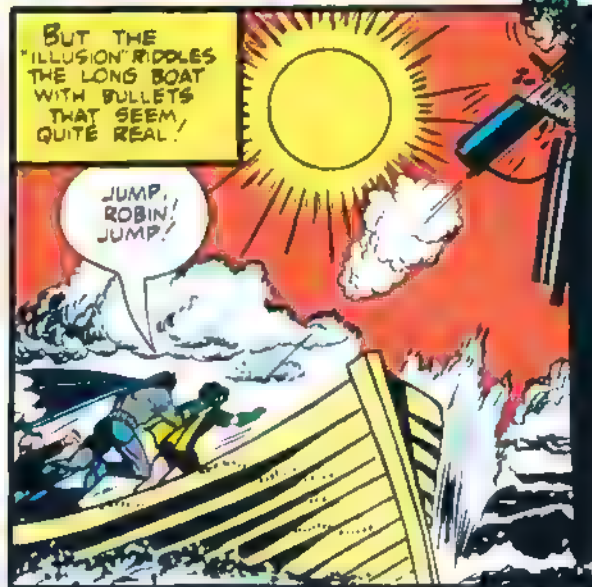


DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

MAYBE THE SUN IS PLAYING TRICKS ON OUR EYES! IT MUST BE AN ILLUSION!

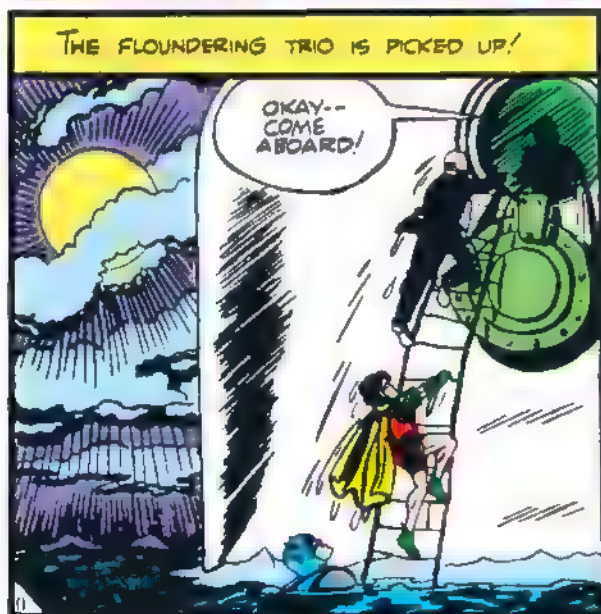
THEN, A STARTLING THING OCCURS! HATCHES OPEN-- MACHINE GUNS POKE OUT FROM THE WHALE'S WHITE BODY!

BUT THE "ILLUSION" RIDDLES THE LONG BOAT WITH BULLETS THAT SEEM QUITE REAL!



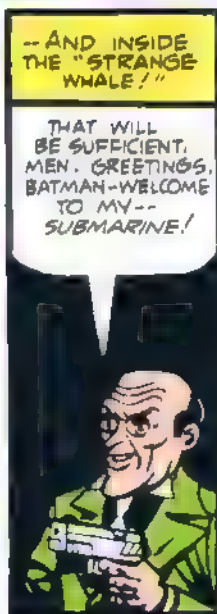
JUMP, ROBIN! JUMP!

THE FLOUNDERING TRIO IS PICKED UP!



OKAY-- COME ABOARD!

--AND INSIDE THE "STRANGE WHALE?"



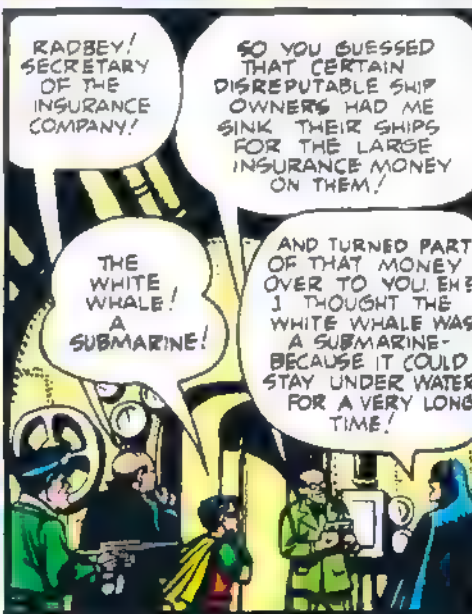
THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT, MEN. GREETINGS, BATMAN--WELCOME TO MY-- SUBMARINE!

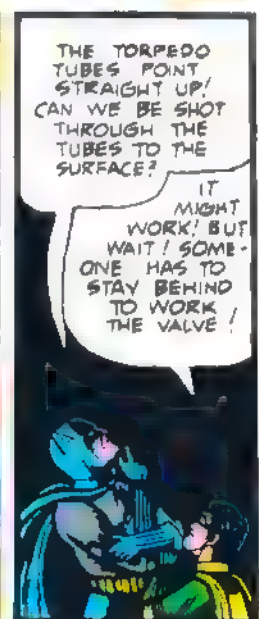
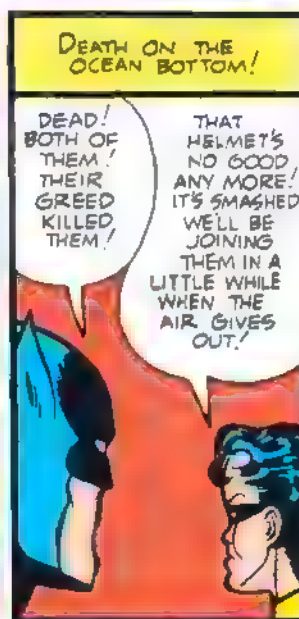
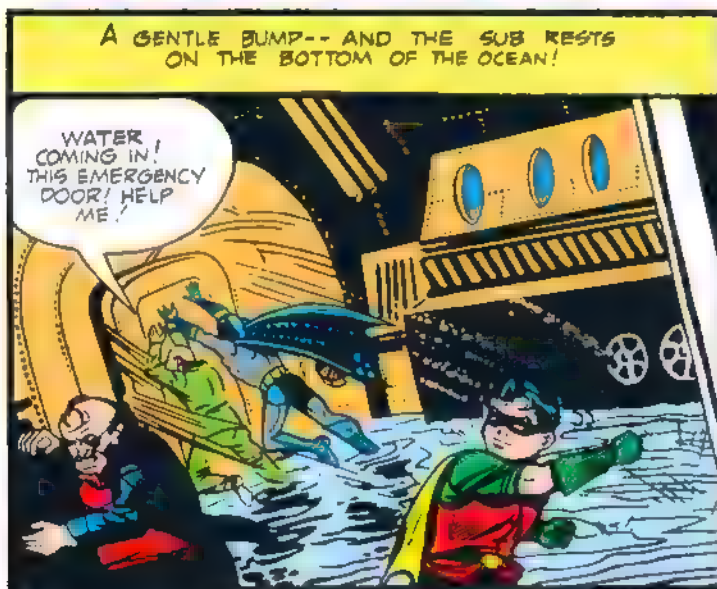
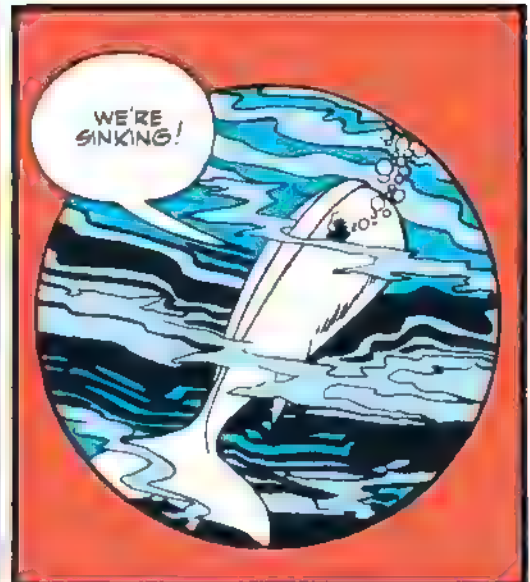
RADBEY! SECRETARY OF THE INSURANCE COMPANY!

SO YOU GUESSED THAT CERTAIN DISREPUTABLE SHIP OWNERS HAD ME SINK THEIR SHIPS FOR THE LARGE INSURANCE MONEY ON THEM!

AND TURNED PART OF THAT MONEY OVER TO YOU, EH? I THOUGHT THE WHITE WHALE WAS A SUBMARINE-- BECAUSE IT COULD STAY UNDER WATER FOR A VERY LONG TIME!

THE WHITE WHALE! A SUBMARINE!





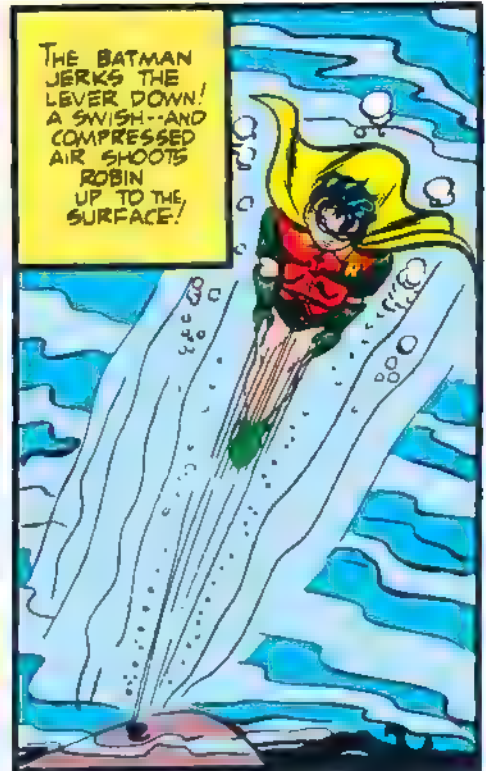


NO YOU DON'T! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES! YOU WANT TO SHOOT ME TO THE SURFACE WHILE YOU STAY BEHIND-- UGH!

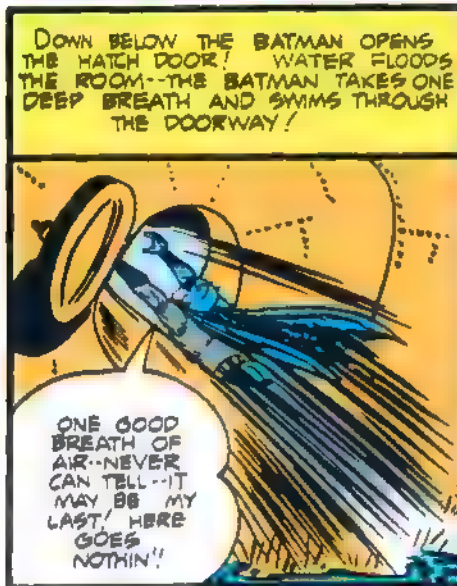
SORRY, PAL!



WORKING SWIFTLY, BATMAN PLACES ROBIN INTO THE TORPEDO TUBE!



THE BATMAN JERKS THE LEVER DOWN! A SWISH--AND COMPRESSED AIR SHOTS ROBIN UP TO THE SURFACE!

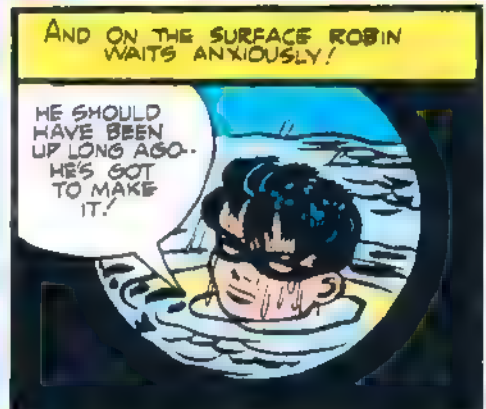


DOWN BELOW THE BATMAN OPENS THE HATCH DOOR! WATER FLOODS THE ROOM--THE BATMAN TAKES ONE DEEP BREATH AND SWIMS THROUGH THE DOORWAY!

ONE GOOD BREATH OF AIR--NEVER CAN TELL--IT MAY BE MY LAST! HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

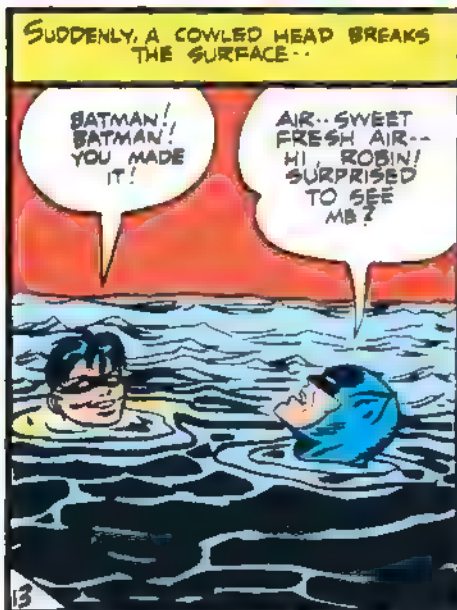


THE LONG FIGHT UPWARD BEGINS!



AND ON THE SURFACE ROBIN WAITS ANXIOUSLY!

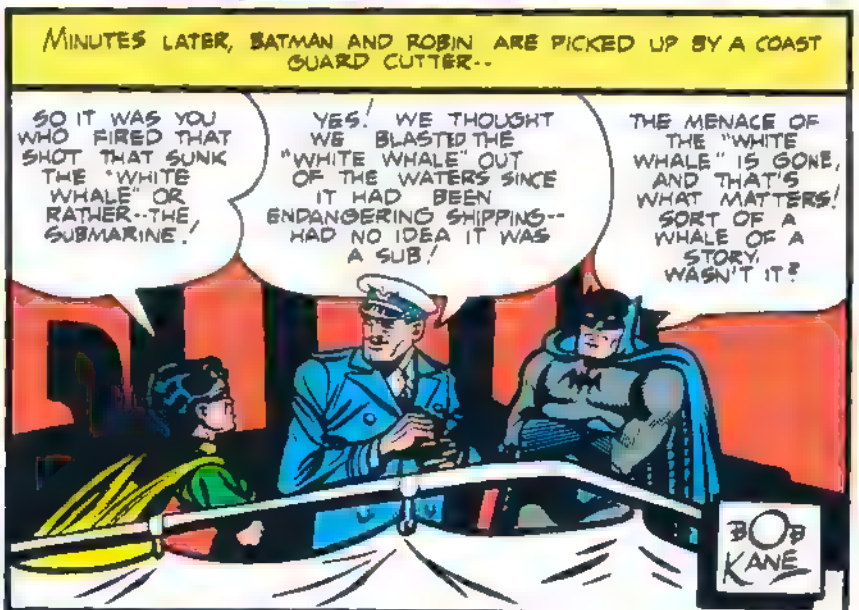
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN UP LONG AGO-- HE'S GOT TO MAKE IT!



SUDDENLY, A COWLED HEAD BREAKS THE SURFACE--

BATMAN! BATMAN! YOU MADE IT!

AIR--SWEET FRESH AIR-- HI, ROBIN! SURPRISED TO SEE ME?



MINUTES LATER, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE PICKED UP BY A COAST GUARD CUTTER--

SO IT WAS YOU WHO FIRED THAT SHOT THAT SUNK THE "WHITE WHALE" OR RATHER--THE SUBMARINE.

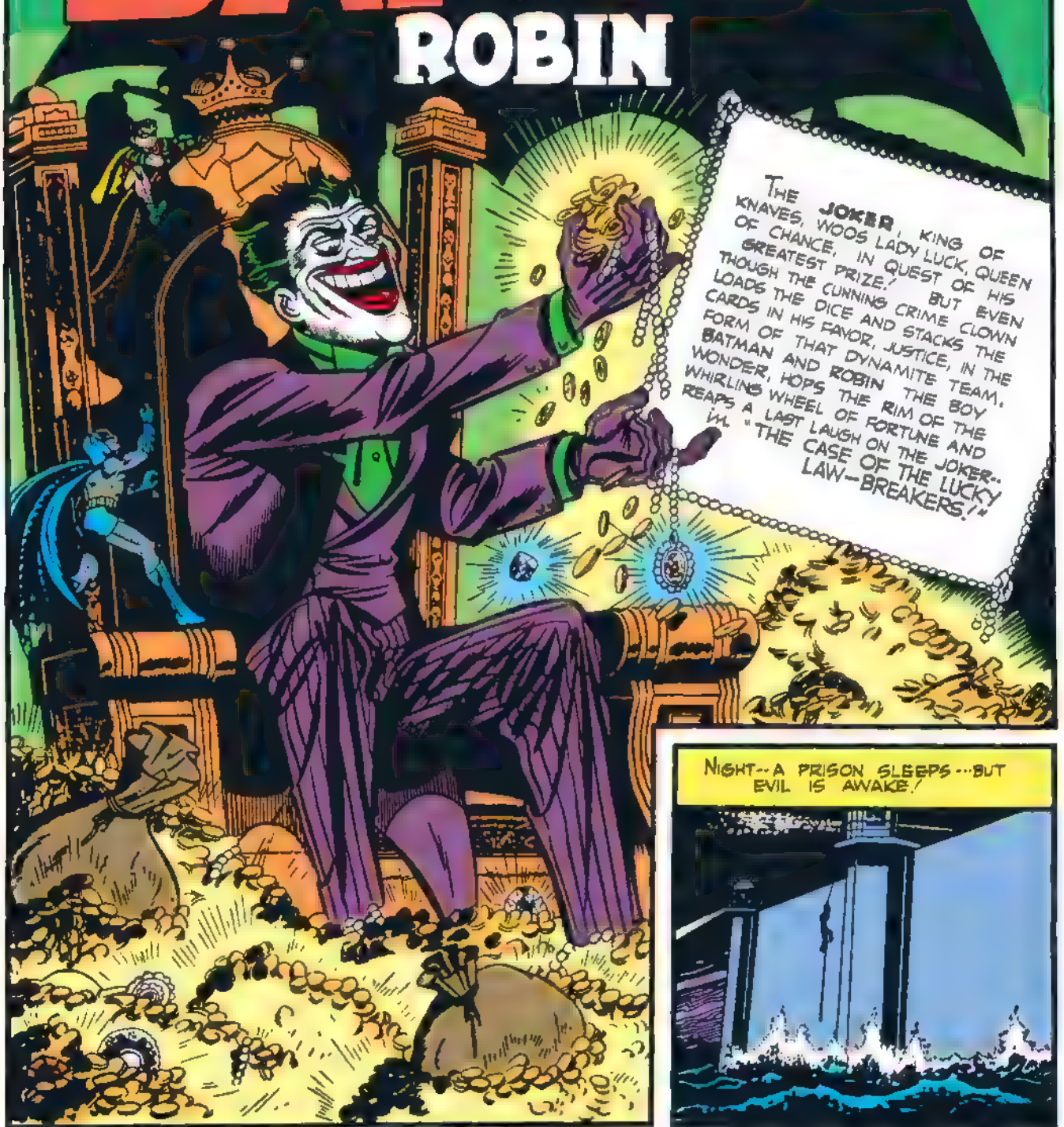
YES! WE THOUGHT WE BLASTED THE "WHITE WHALE" OUT OF THE WATERS SINCE IT HAD BEEN ENDANGERING SHIPPING-- HAD NO IDEA IT WAS A SUB!

THE MENACE OF THE "WHITE WHALE" IS GONE, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS! SORT OF A WHOLE OF A STORY, WASN'T IT?

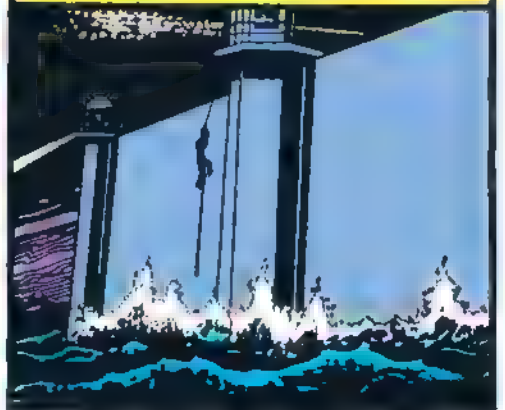
BOB KANE

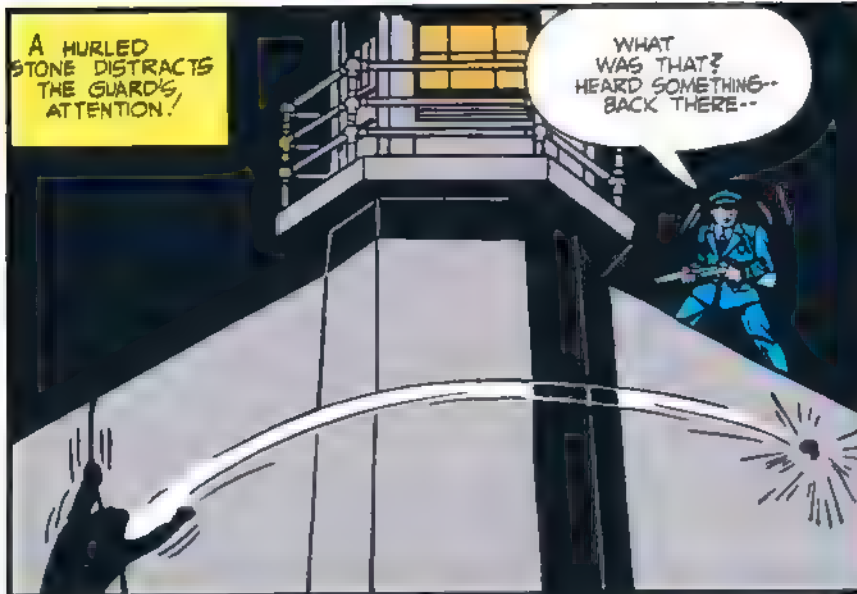
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN



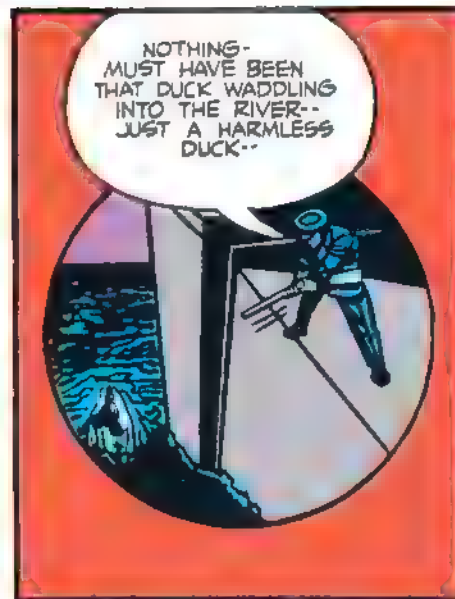
NIGHT--A PRISON SLEEPS...BUT EVIL IS AWAKE!





A HURLED
STONE DISTRACTS
THE GUARD'S
ATTENTION!

WHAT
WAS THAT?
HEARD SOMETHING--
BACK THERE--



NOTHING--
MUST HAVE BEEN
THAT DUCK WADDLING
INTO THE RIVER--
JUST A HARMLESS
DUCK--



BUT THE
"HARMLESS"
DUCK IS A MAN--
A MAN
ESCAPING
FROM AN
ESCAPE-PROOF
PRISON!



A DRIPPING FIGURE HAULS ITSELF ONTO
THE OPPOSITE SHORE!

THE FOOLS SHOULD
NEVER HAVE LET ME WORK
IN THE TOOL SHOP! I
MADE THIS DECOY DUCK--
AND MY ESCAPE--
HA! HA!

THE JOKER! ARCH-VILLAIN OF ALL TIME,
IS FREE-FREE ONCE AGAIN TO WREAK HIS
CRIMINAL CUNNING!

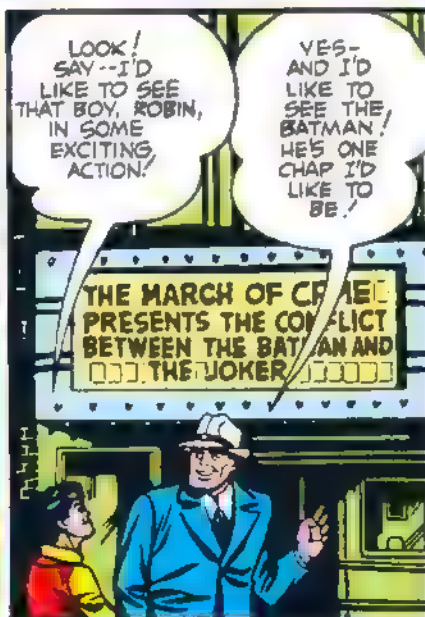


THE NEXT MORNING, AN EXTRA HITS
THE STREETS--

EXTRA!
MIDTOWN
BANK ROBBED
OF TEN
THOUSAND
DOLLARS!

HMM--
SOMEONE'S
MADE A
NICE HAUL!

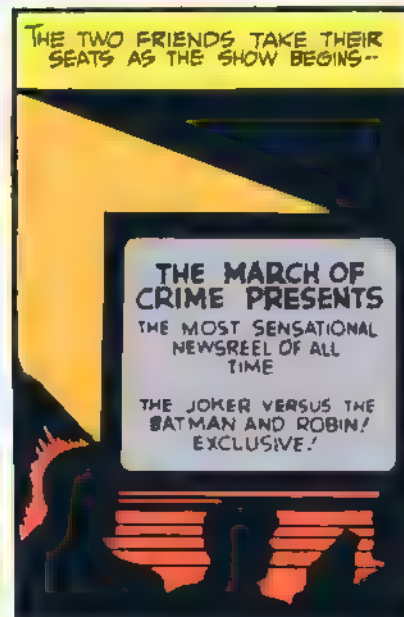
THE
PAPER
SAYS
IT WAS A
CLEVER
JOB,
TOO!



LOOK!
SAY--I'D
LIKE TO SEE
THAT BOY, ROBIN,
IN SOME
EXCITING
ACTION!

YES--
AND I'D
LIKE TO
SEE THE
BATMAN!
HE'S ONE
CHAP I'D
LIKE TO
BE!

THE MARCH OF CRIME
PRESENTS THE CONFLICT
BETWEEN THE BATMAN AND
THE JOKER



THE TWO FRIENDS TAKE THEIR
SEATS AS THE SHOW BEGINS--

THE MARCH OF
CRIME PRESENTS

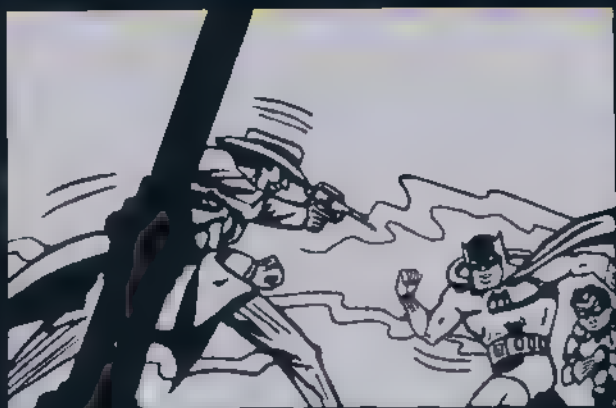
THE MOST SENSATIONAL
NEWSREEL OF ALL
TIME

THE JOKER VERSUS THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
EXCLUSIVE!



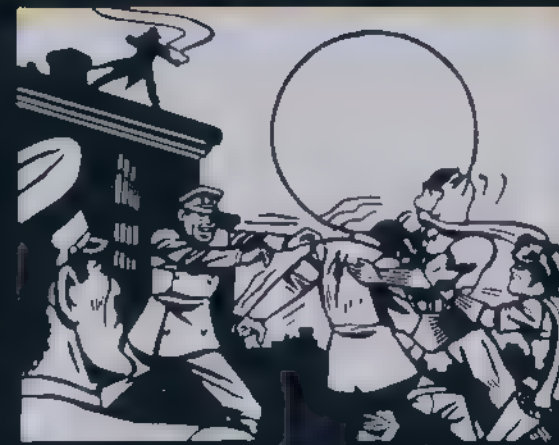
"HERE IS A STORY TAKEN FROM THE PAGES OF CRIME, A STORY THAT BEGAN WHEN THE MOCKING JOKER FIRST CROSSED THE TRAIL OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN- AND THUS BEGAN THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY."

"HERE WE SEE THE JOKER, AFTER HE ACCIDENTALLY STABBED HIMSELF IN A SCUFFLE WITH THE BATMAN. HE LIVED TO PLOT MORE VILLAINY!"



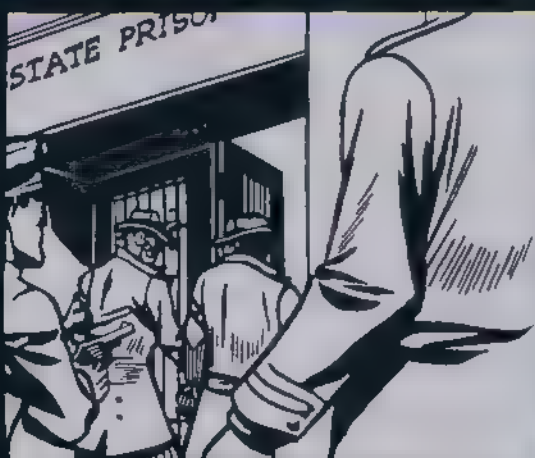
"AT GREAT RISK OF LIFE A NEWSREEL MAN SHOT THIS SCENE ATOP A SPEEDING TRAIN!"

"AN AMATEUR CAMERAMAN SECURED THIS EXCITING PICTURE OF THE JOKER IN ACTION."



"BUT THE TRAIL OF CRIME ALWAYS LEADS TO PRISON, AS THE JOKER WAS TO FIND OUT!"

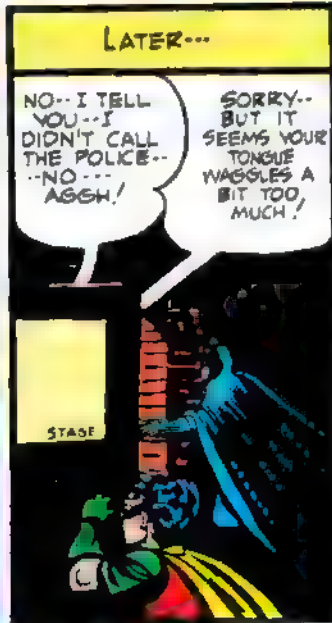
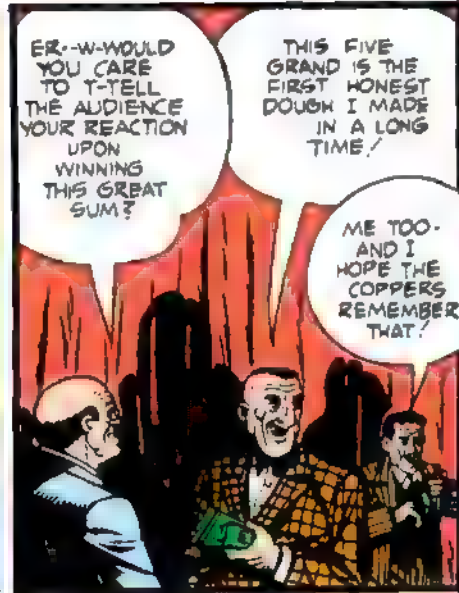
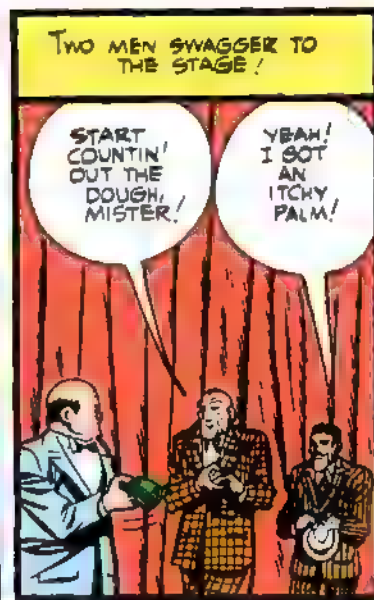
"OUR THANKS GO TO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FOR THE FINAL CAPTURE OF A MASTER CRIMINAL!"



FUNNY, I NEVER REALIZED BEFORE, HOW PHOTOGENIC YOU ARE!

AND YOU-- YOU'LL BE MAKING CLARK GABLE LOOK TO HIS LAURELS!

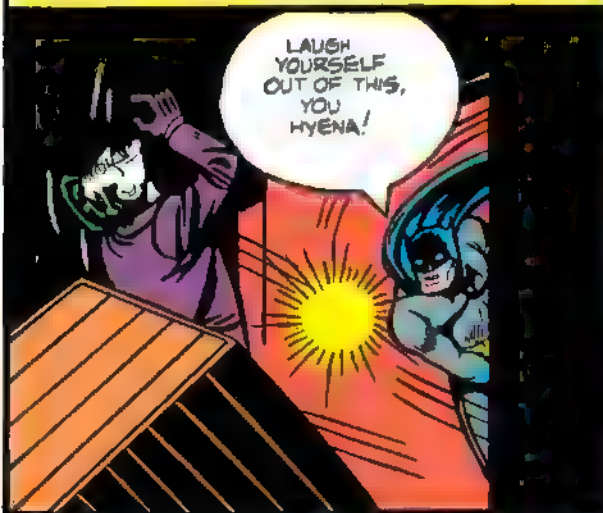




A SLASHING KICK DISPOSES OF THE DEADLY BLOW GUN!



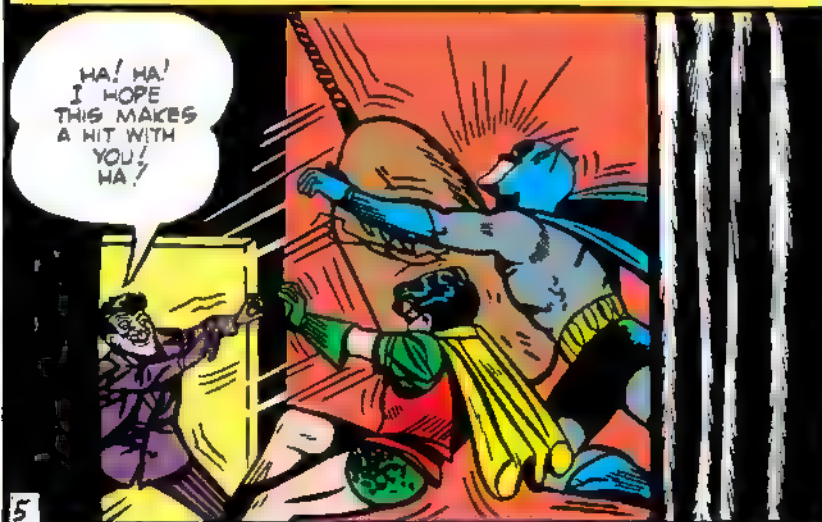
A POWERFUL BLOW SENDS THE JOKER SPINNING THROUGH THE DOOR---



ONCE OUTSIDE, THE CUNNING CLOWN SEIZES HIS ADVANTAGE AND RACES AWAY WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN IN FULL PURSUIT.

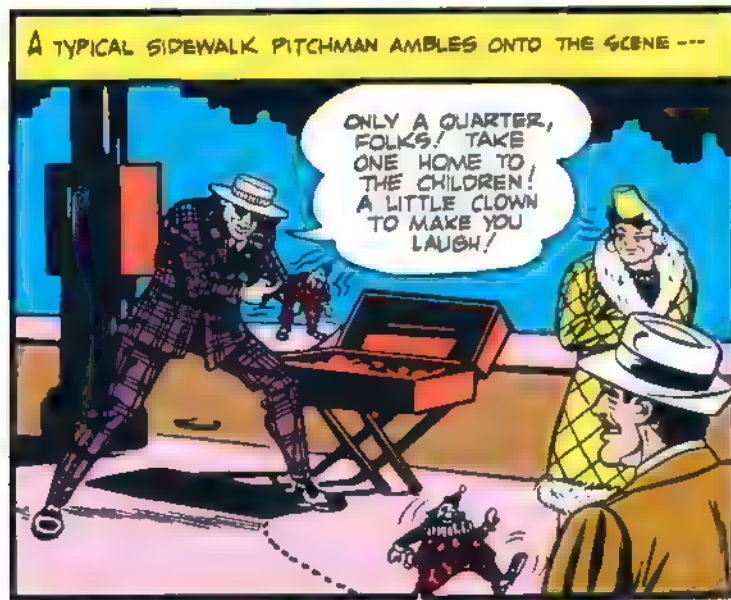
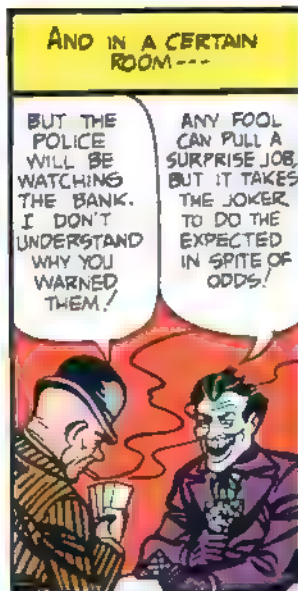


SUDDENLY THE GRIM JESTER HALTS HIS MAD FLIGHT WHEELS AND---



SECONDS LATER, A SUPERCHARGED ENGINE ROARS TESTIMONY TO THE JOKER'S ESCAPE!



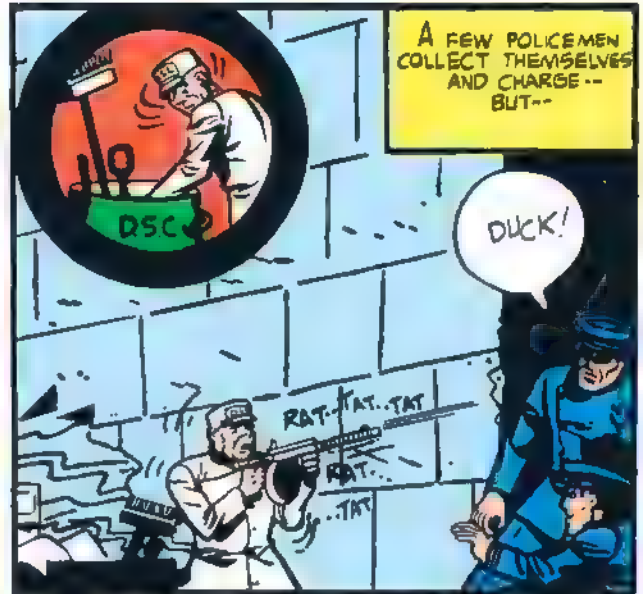


IN THE MIST OF FRENZIED EXCITEMENT, THE PITCHMAN REMOVES HIS MAKEUP AND REVEALS THE LEERING FACE OF THE JOKER---



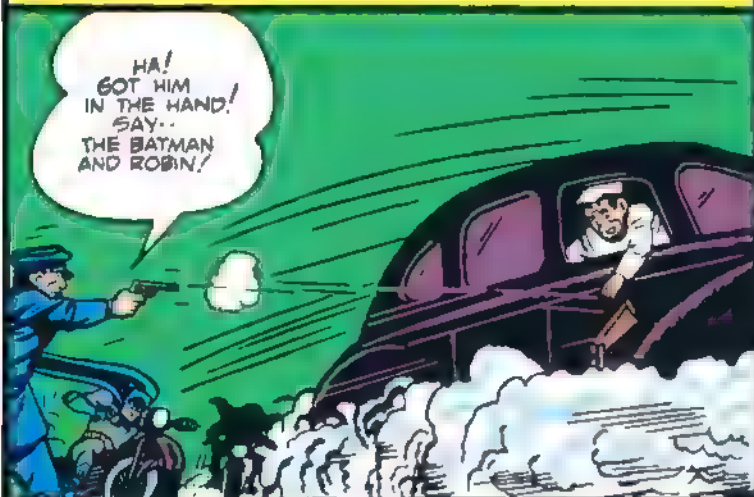
HA! HA!
JUST A LITTLE
DOLL--FILLED
WITH T.N.T.
EXPLODING THE
WALL SO THAT
THE TELLERS'
CAGES ARE
EXPOSED! WHAT
A JOKE!

A FEW POLICEMEN
COLLECT THEMSELVES
AND CHARGE --
BUT--



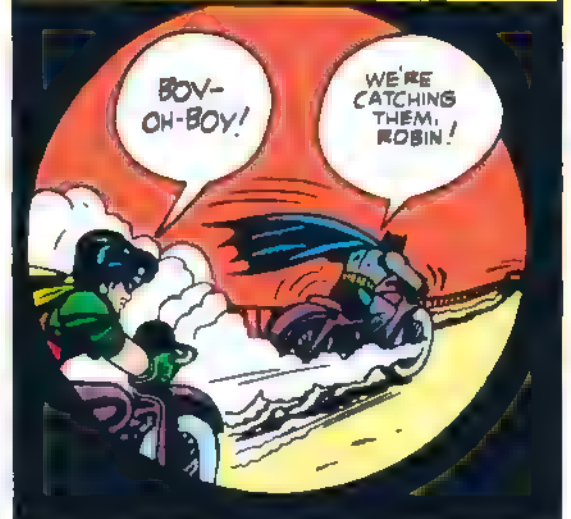
DUCK!

AN INSTANT LATER, THE KILLER-CAR ROARS AWAY---FOLLOWED
BY TWO MANTLED FIGURES ATOP BUCKING MOTORCYCLES!



HA!
GOT HIM
IN THE HAND!
SAY--
THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN!

A DANGEROUS CHASE BEGINS--



BOY--
OH-BOY!

WE'RE
CATCHING
THEM,
ROBIN!

SUDDENLY, THE JOKER WHIPS HIS CAR
ABOUT AND VAULTS FOR SAFETY!



THAT DEVIL
HAS BLOCKED
THE ROAD!
CAN'T TURN!
ROBIN--
ALLEY-OOP!

THE ACROBATMAN MAKES
A DARING LEAP--



NOW!

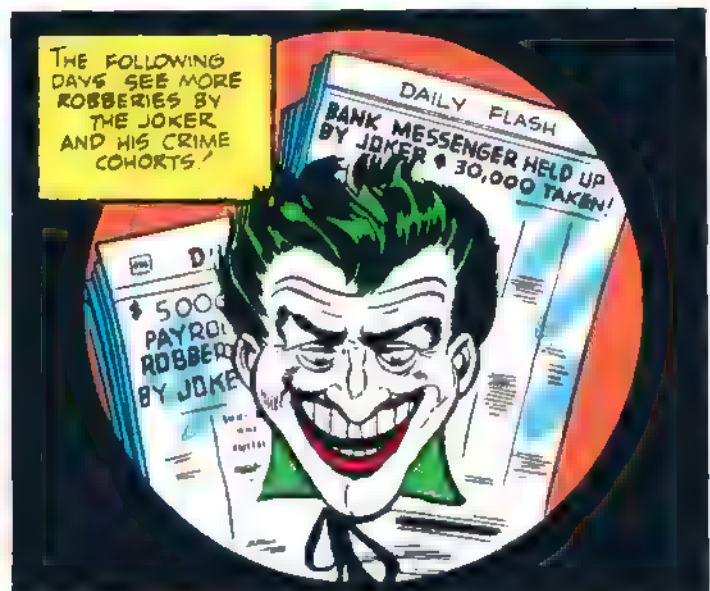
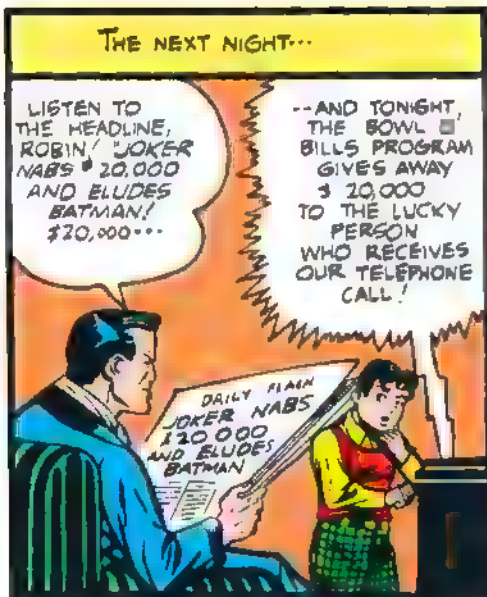
A RENDING CRASH! LIKE TWIN
CANNON BALLS, THE MOTORCYCLES
GRIND INTO THE AUTOMOBILE, BUT
BATMAN AND ROBIN--

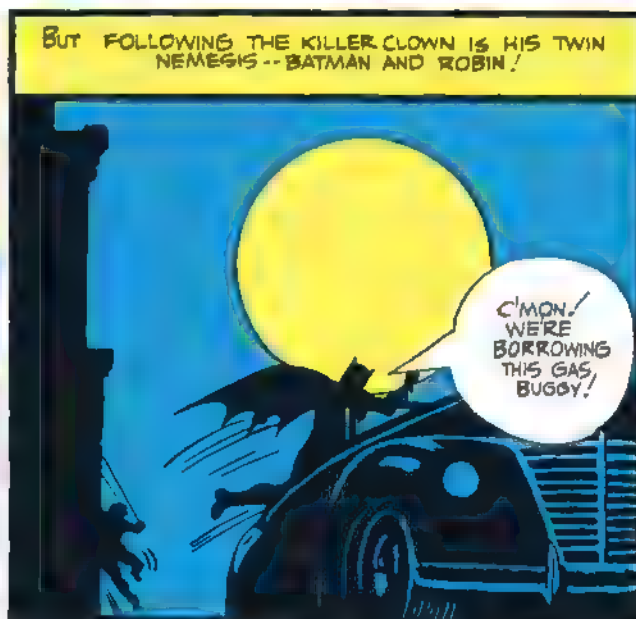
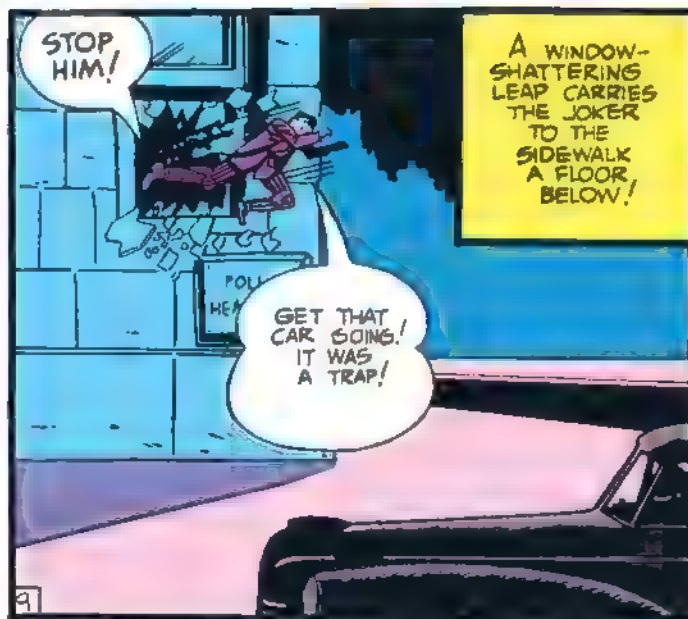
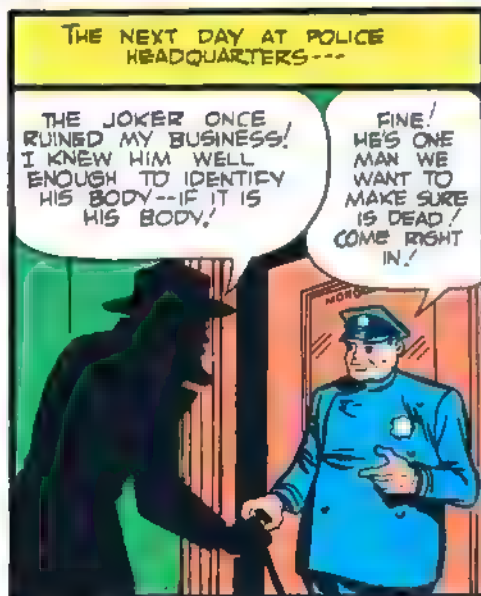
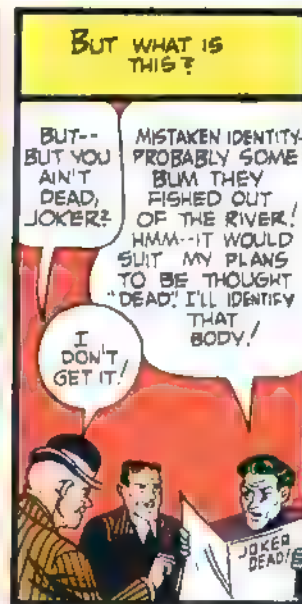
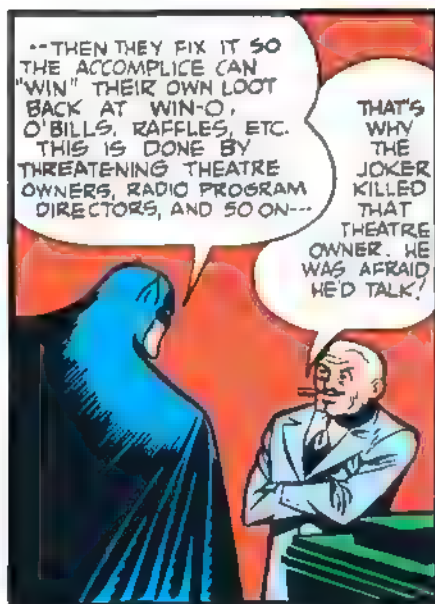


SAFE!
WHEW--
THAT WAS
CLOSE!

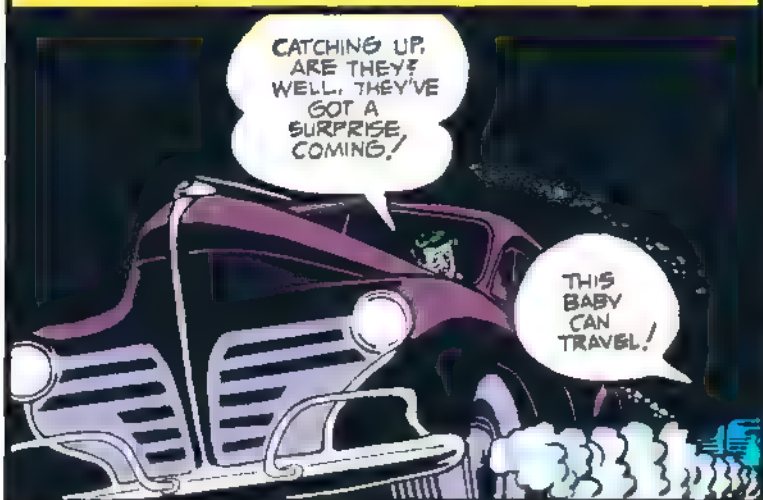
JUST THINK--
THAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
US! OUR JOKER
FRIEND HAS
PULLED ANOTHER
ACE FROM HIS
CROOKED
DECK!

CRASH

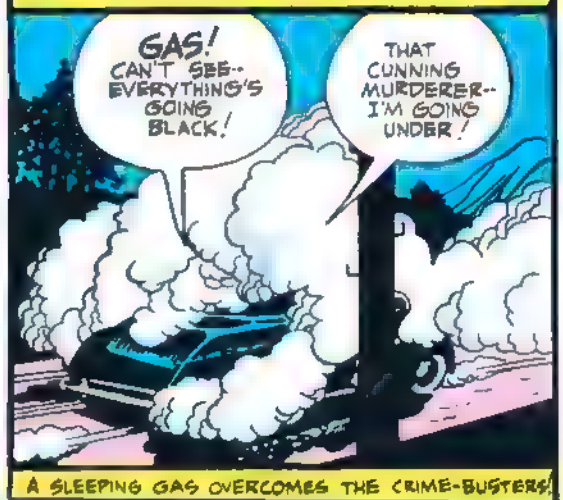




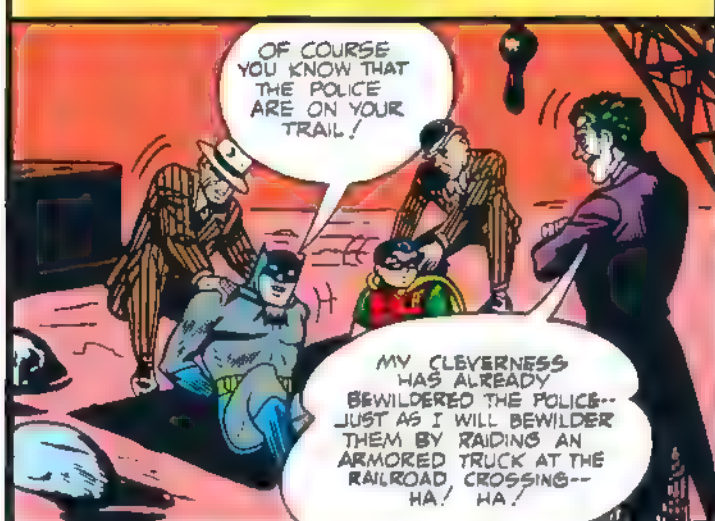
AGAIN, A WILD, FRENZIED CHASE, TAKING THE CARS OUT INTO OPEN COUNTRY!



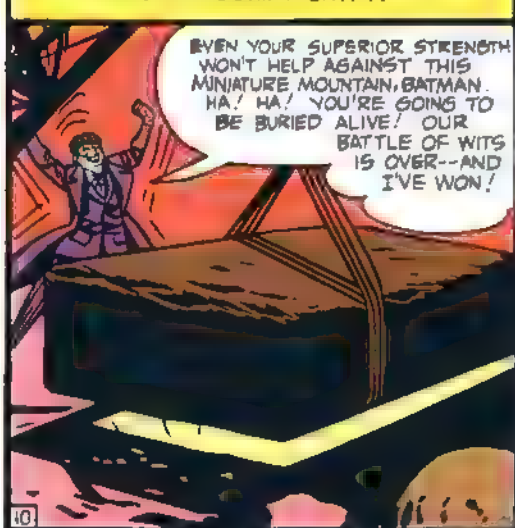
WITHOUT A WARNING--FROM THE EXHAUST PIPE--



LATER-- BATMAN AND ROBIN AWAKE AS CAPTIVES OF THE MOCKING JOKER!



UNDER THE JOKER'S DIRECTIONS, A CRANE LOWERS A TON-HEAVY SLAB OF ROCK OVER THE MAKESHIFT CRYPT!



DOWN COMES THE STONE, AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SEALED FAST--ENTOMBED!

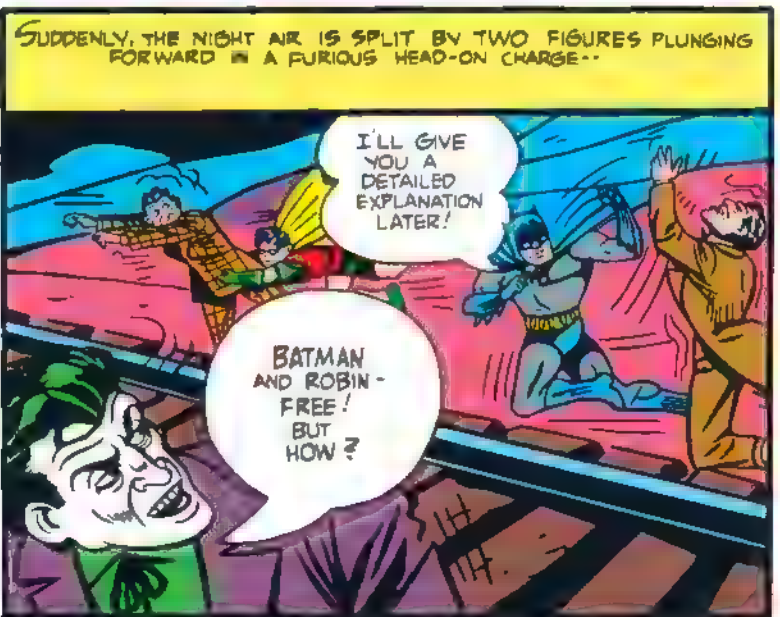
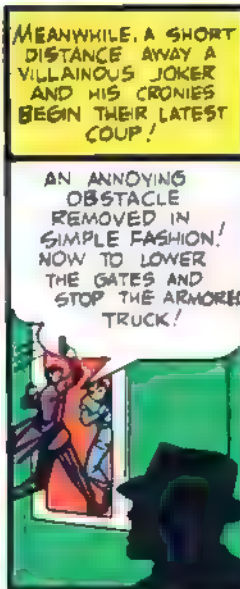
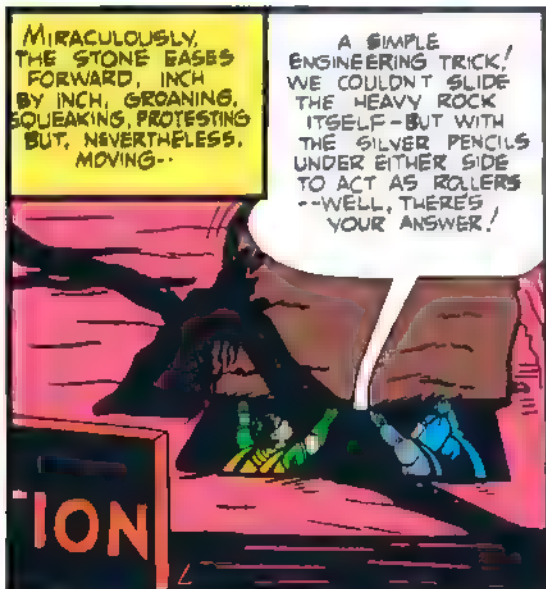
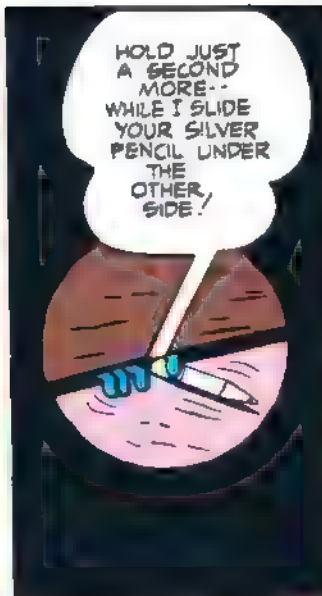
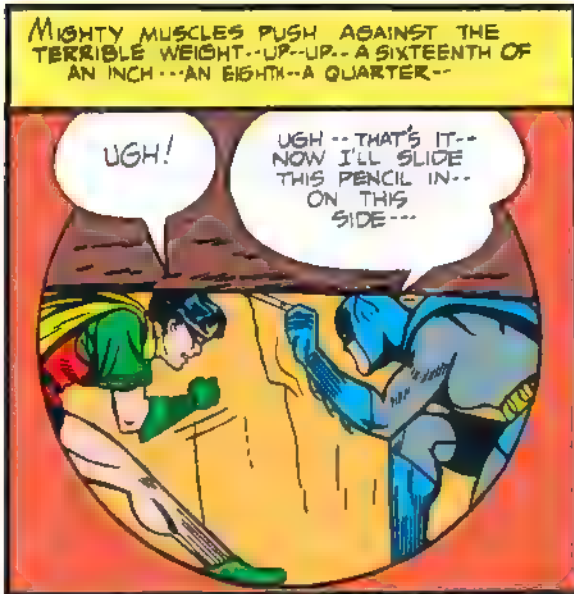


CAN'T EVEN BUDGE IT! IT LOOKS LIKE THE END FOR US!



WHAT'S THE IDEA?

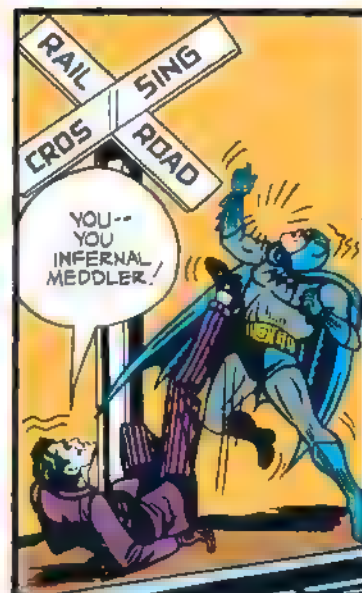




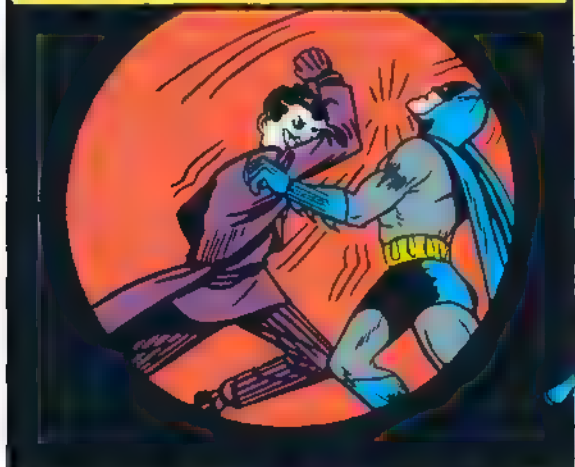
ROBIN GOES TO TOWN!



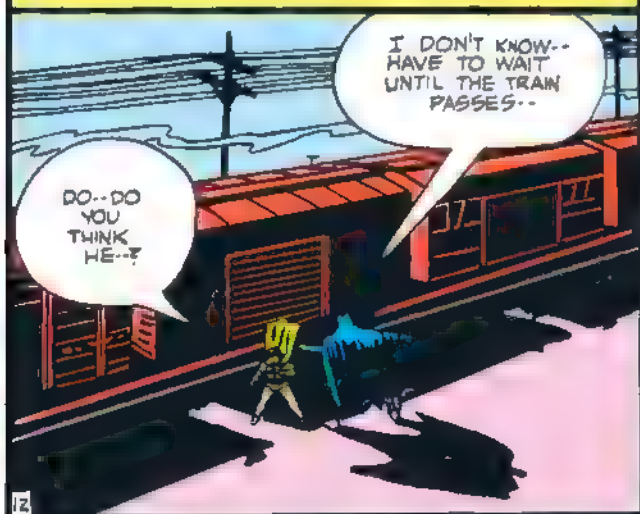
WHILE THE BATMAN AND THE JOKER ONCE AGAIN MEET IN A PERSONAL BATTLE!



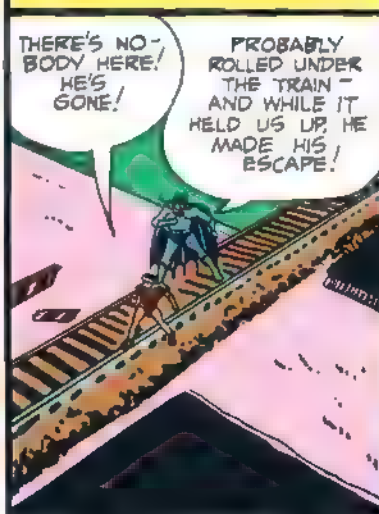
AS THE TWO GREAT ENEMIES CLASH IN TERRIFIC COMBAT--THERE IS THE SUDDEN NEARBY RUMBLE AND THUNDER OF AN APPROACHING EXPRESS TRAIN--



LIKE A JUGGERNAUT OF DOOM, THE TRAIN ROARS MIGHTILY OVER THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE JOKER HAD FALLEN!



AND WHEN THE LONG TRAIN FINALLY DOES CLATTER PAST--



THE JOKER-- GONE AGAIN!



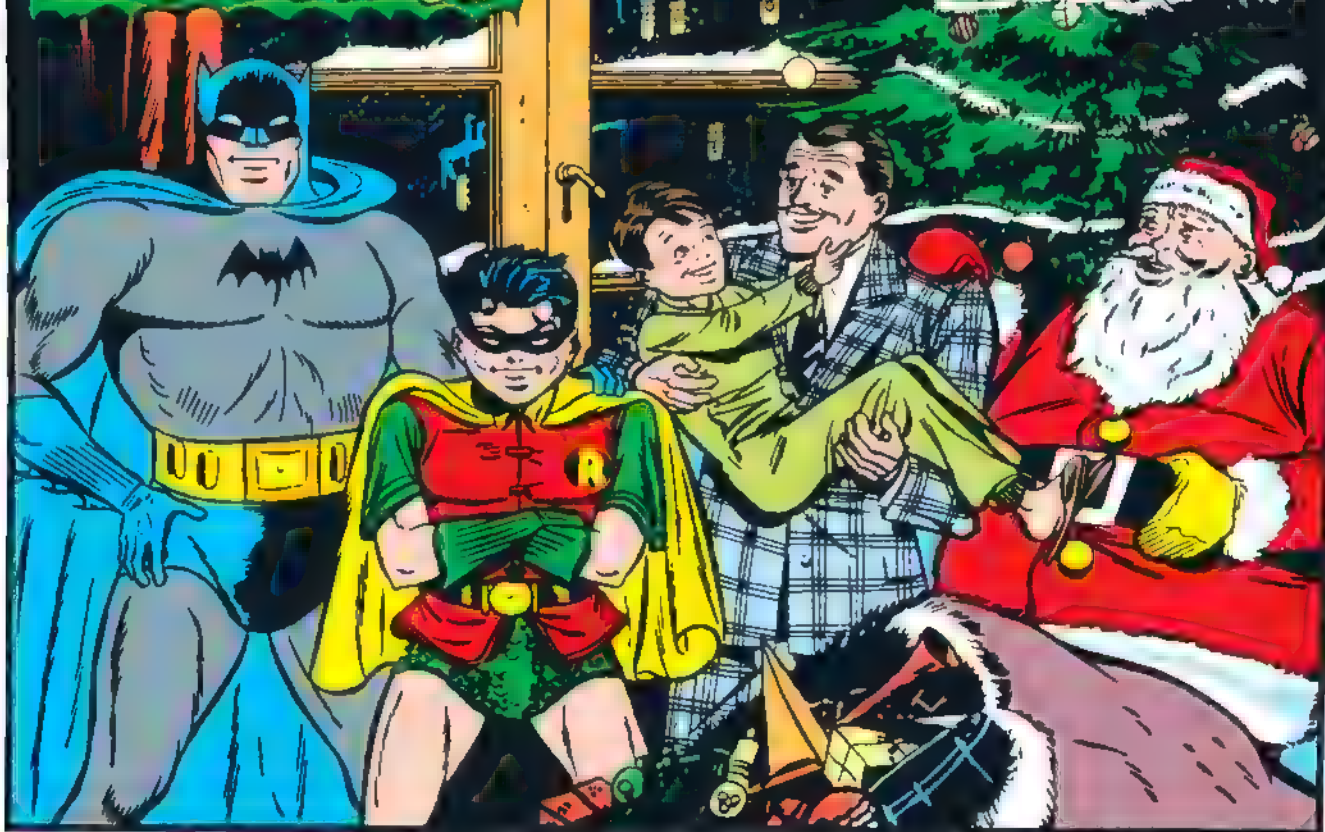
BATMAN

WITH

ROBIN

Christmas-

SEASON OF TURKEY AND PLUM PUDDING--OF GIFTS AND GOOD WILL--FUN AND GAMES AND LAUGHTER! WE'RE ALL SET FOR A REAL, ROLICKING OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS OF SNOW AND HOLLY AND SANTA CLAUS--ALL THE TRIMMINGS! AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED TO A MERRY YULETIDE PARTY WITH THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER--WHERE WE'LL TEAM UP WITH THAT JOLLY, RED-FACED, WHITE-HAIRED OLD GENT--TO GIVE A LONELY ORPHAN BOY THE MOST WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT IN THE WORLD--HIS DAD!



THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, AND A SMOOTH, WHITE SHEET OF SNOW BLANKETS THE ROOFTOPS AND STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS PUSH THEIR WAY INTO CROWDED DEPARTMENT STORES. AMONG THEM ARE BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON-

OOPS! HEY--WHERE ARE YOU, DICK?

HERE I AM!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU, BROTHER!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

YES--EVERYONE SEEMS TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO BRING JOY TO OTHERS!

WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

TO THE ORPHANAGE. I WANT TO SEE IF THOSE TOYS I ORDERED GET THERE IN TIME!

THANK YOU, SIR!

AT THE ORPHANAGE---

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THOSE GIFTS!

IT'S LITTLE ENOUGH I CAN DO TO MAKE THIS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS FOR THE POOR, PARENTLESS TOTS! I--EH--WHAT'S THIS?

THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!

YOU HEARD ME--THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!

BUT THERE IS, TOO! YOU WRITE HIM A LETTER AND HE BRINGS YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK FOR! MY DADDY TOLD ME SO!

YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY DADDY! YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF US HERE!

BUT I HAVE GOT A DADDY--ONLY HE'S AWAY ON SOME LONG TRIP--SEE--I WISH I KNEW WHEN HE WAS COMING BACK!

HE'S NOT EVER COMING BACK--BUT IF YOU BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM TO SEND YOUR DADDY TO YOU? HAH!

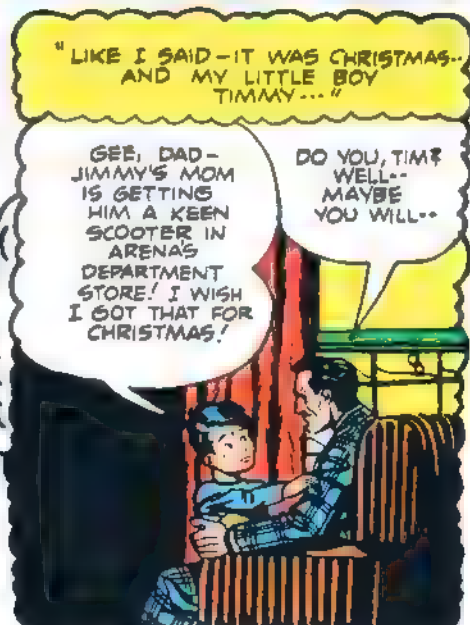
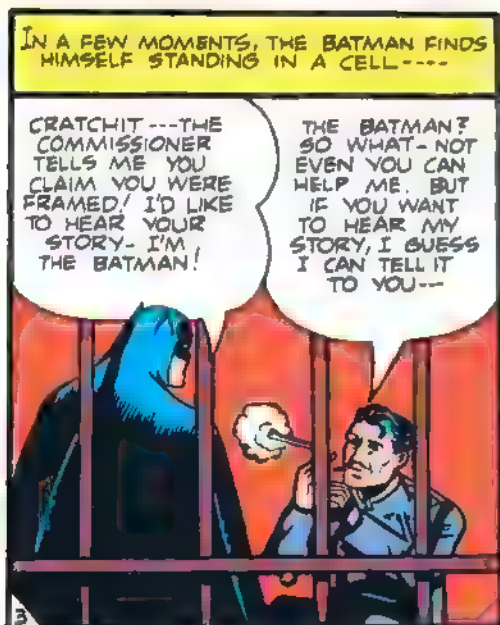
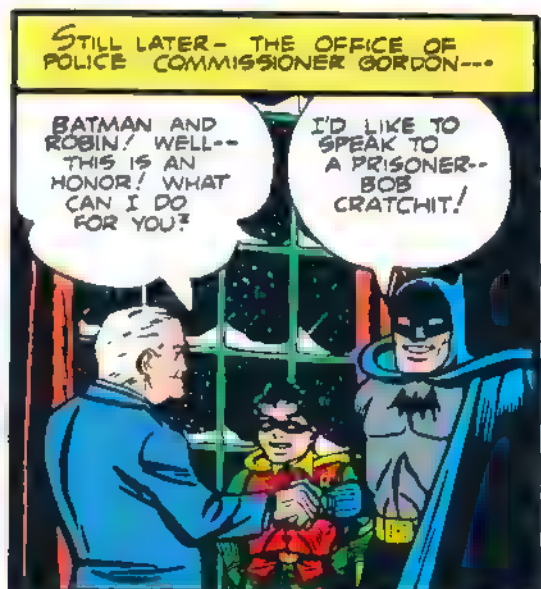
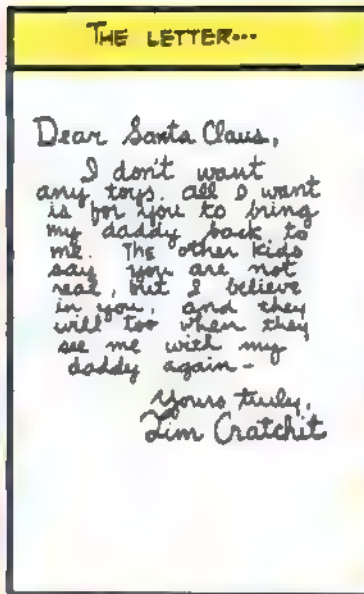
ALL RIGHT--I WILL! AND WHEN MY DADDY COMES HERE YOU'LL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS THEN! YOU'LL SEE!

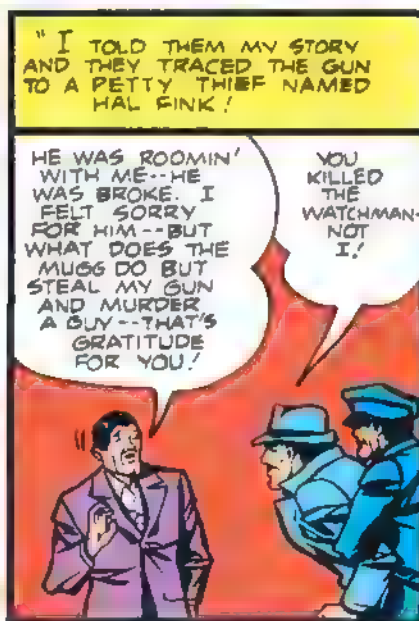
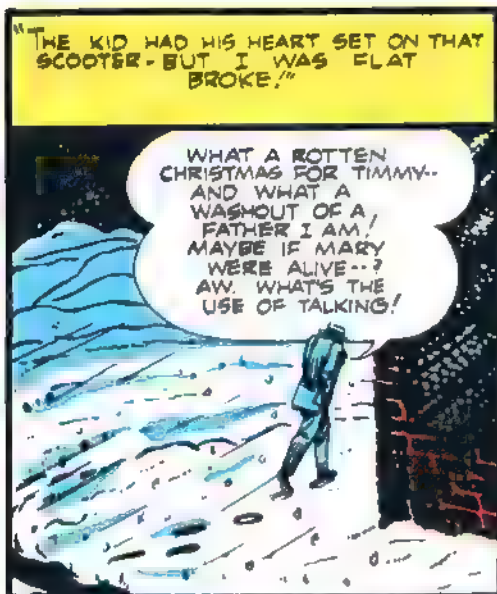
SURE, TIMMY--BUT, YOUR DADDY AIN'T NEVER COMING BACK 'CAUSE THERE AIN'T NO SANTA CLAUS!

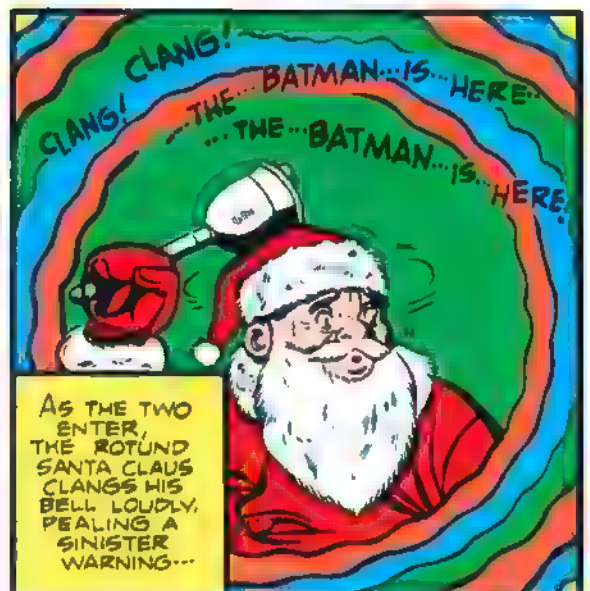
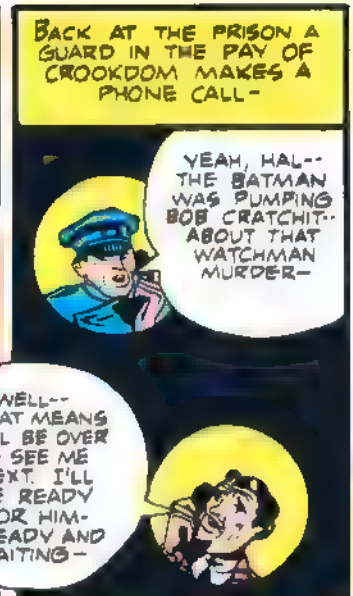
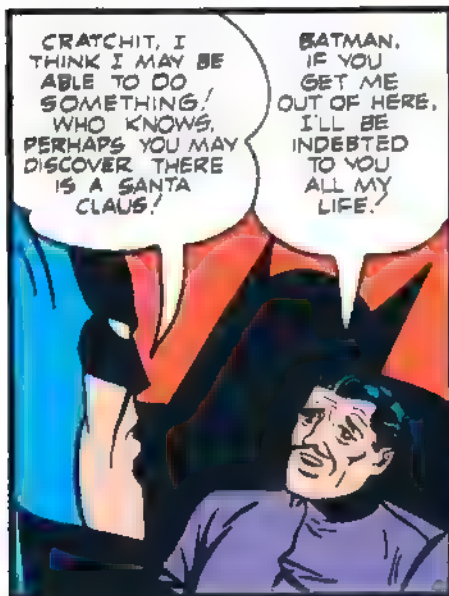
THAT'S ONLY KID STUFF!

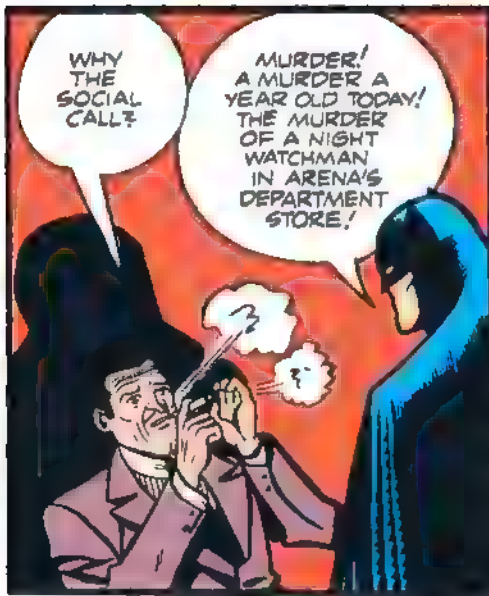
THAT BOY TIMMY--IS HIS FATHER DEAD?

NO--HE'S IN JAIL--SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER! SAD CASE, TOO! THE MAN INSISTS HE WAS FRAMED!

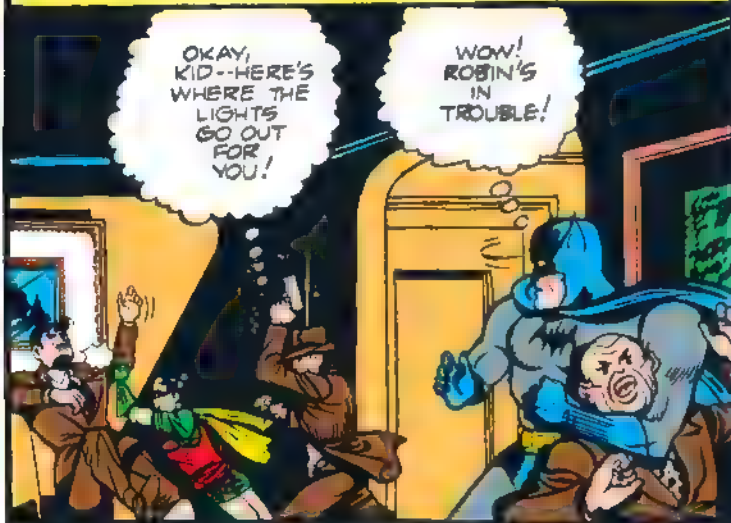








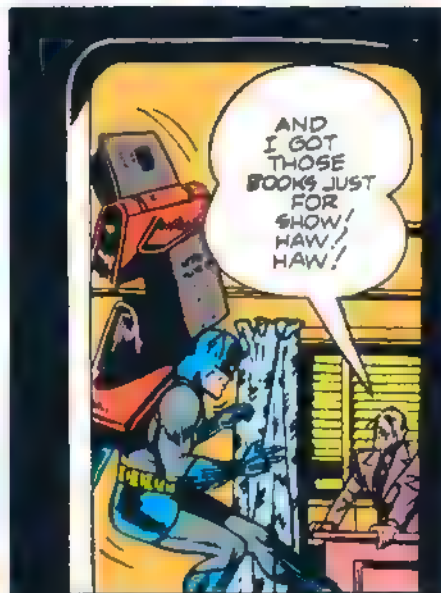
BUT DANGER SWOOPS DOWN ON THE VALIANT BATTLER!



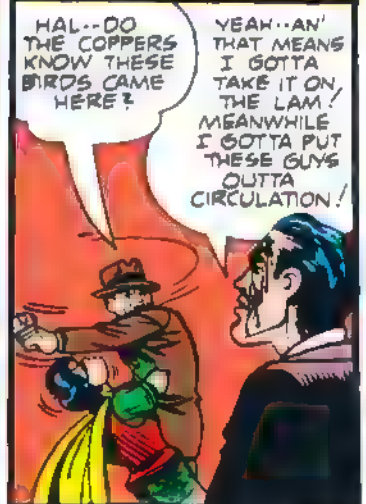
A SWIFT, ACCURATE THROW, AND THE GUN SINKS HARMLESSLY INTO A SOFT PILLOW!



BUT HIS TIMELY INTERVENTION ON ROBIN'S BEHALF LEAVES THE BATMAN OFF GUARD---



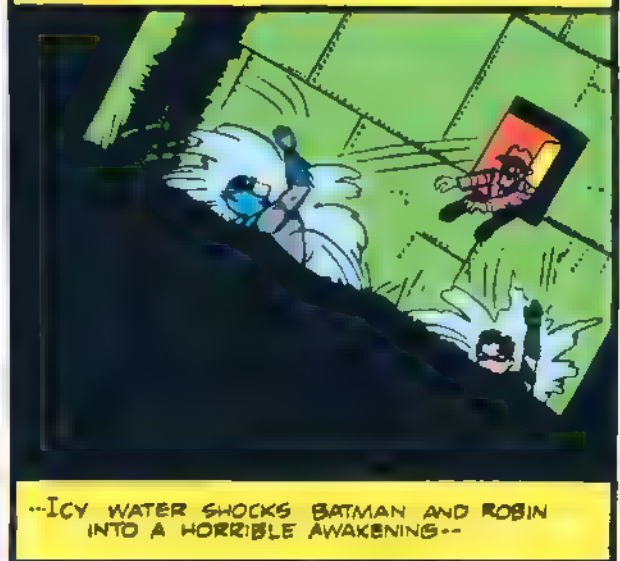
AND A MOMENT LATER PLUCKY ROBIN GOES DOWN!

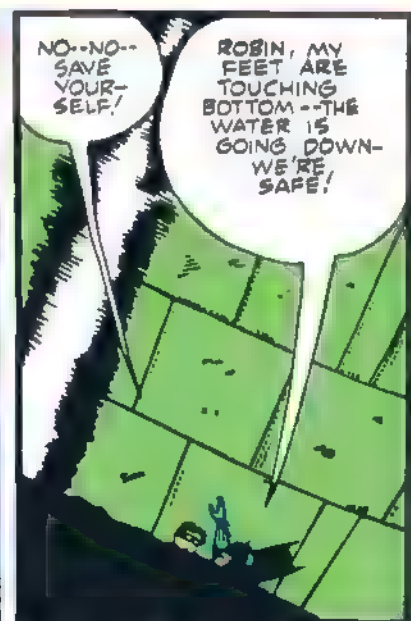
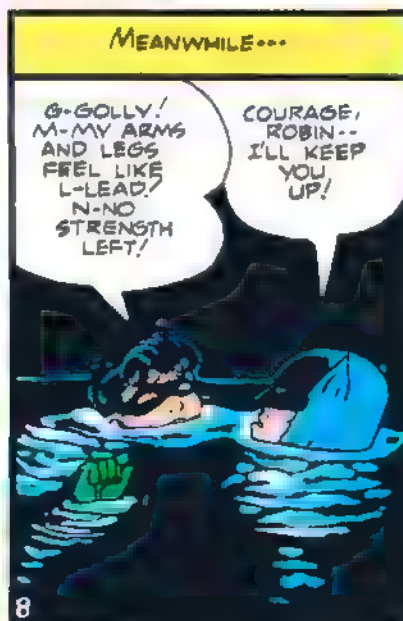
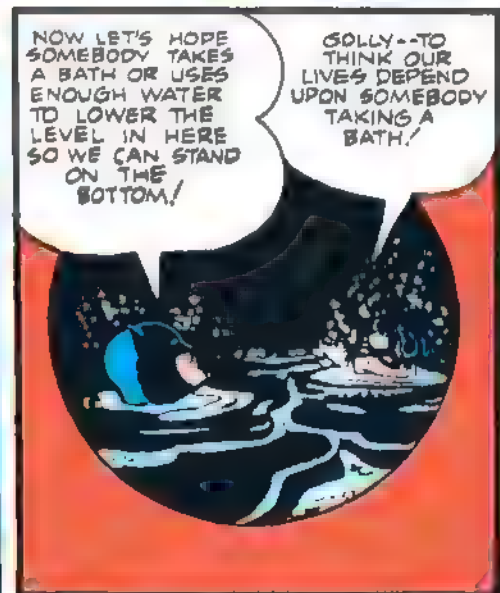
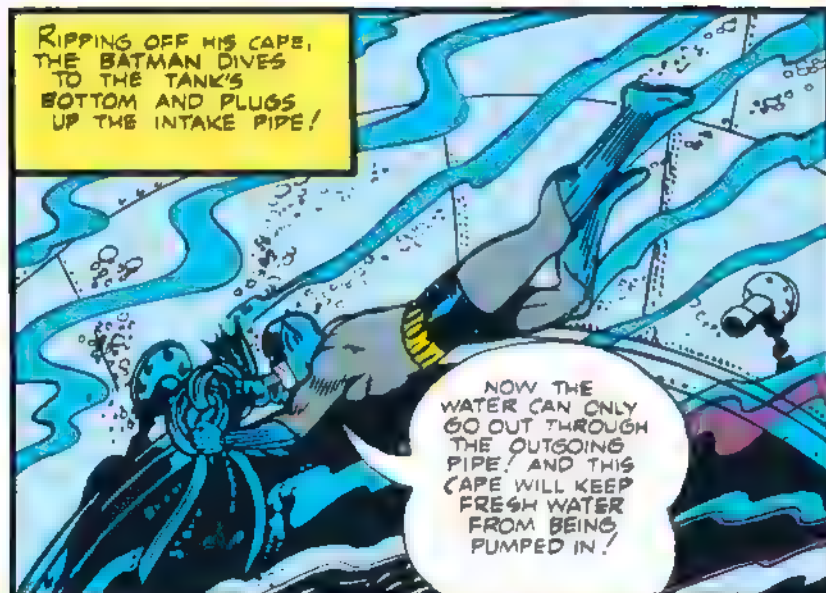
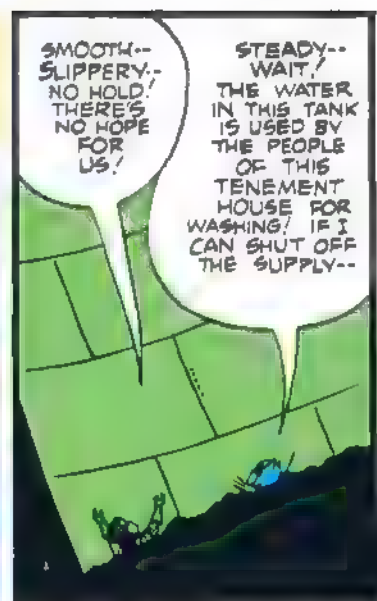


HAL ORDERS THE DUO TAKEN TO THE ROOFTOP--



A STEEL DOOR IS OPENED AND---

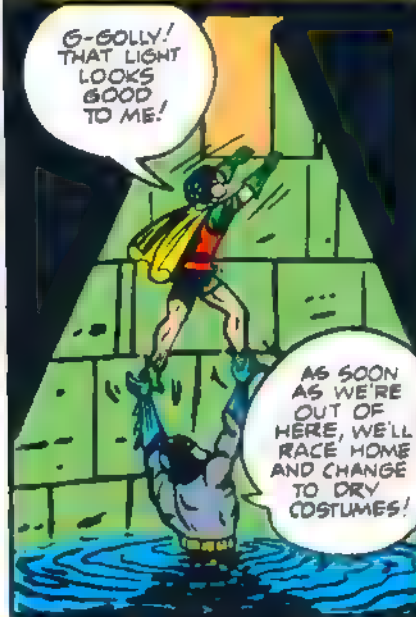




UNWITTINGLY, IN HIS HASTE HAL FINK HAS LEFT THE WATER RUNNING, PROVIDING AN ESCAPE FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN--



AND SO, NOT LONG AFTER--



G-GOLLY! THAT LIGHT LOOKS GOOD TO ME!

AS SOON AS WE'RE OUT OF HERE, WE'LL RACE HOME AND CHANGE TO DRY COSTUMES!

SOMETIME LATER---AS BATMAN AND ROBIN DART PAST A WHARF ON THEIR WAY TO COMMISSIONER GORDON--



SAY, ISN'T THAT THE SAME SANTA WE SAW IN FRONT OF HAL'S PLACE?

HMM-- THAT'S ODD! LOOK! HE SEES US!

AT THE SIGNAL, HAL AND HIS BANDITS PILE OUT OF THE WAREHOUSE---TO BE MET BY--



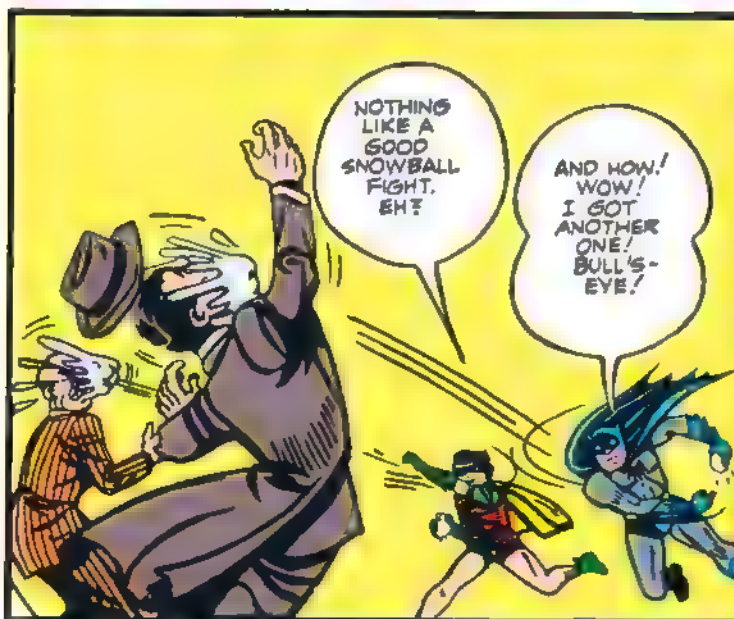
LOOK AT HIM-- HE'S JINGLING THAT BELL LIKE A MANIAC!

NOW I GET IT! THAT'S A SIGNAL! HE'S A LOOKOUT! C'MON!

THE BATMAN IS HERE!



LET'S GET-- UGH!



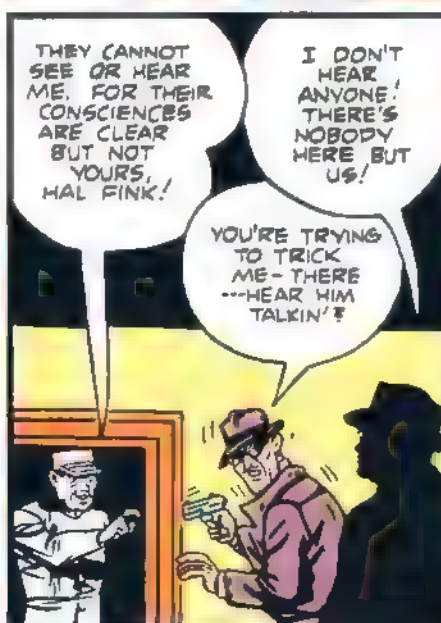
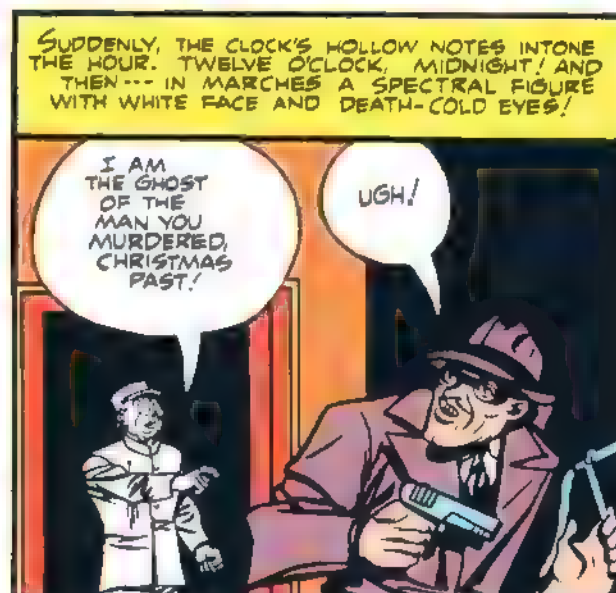
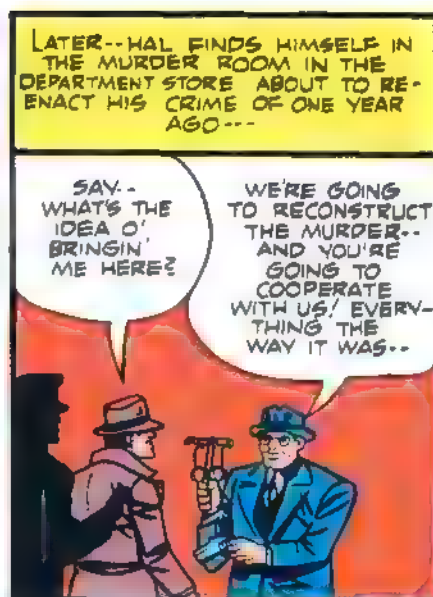
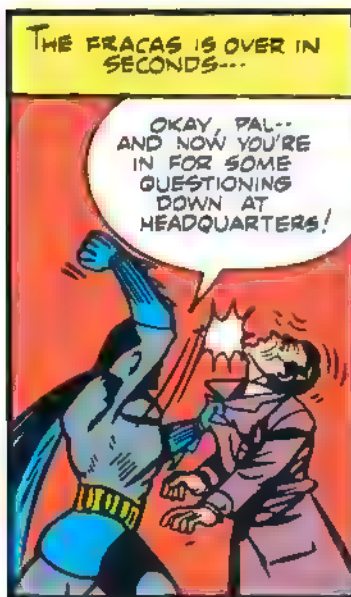
NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SNOWBALL FIGHT, EH?

AND HOW! WOW! I GOT ANOTHER ONE! BULL'S-EYE!

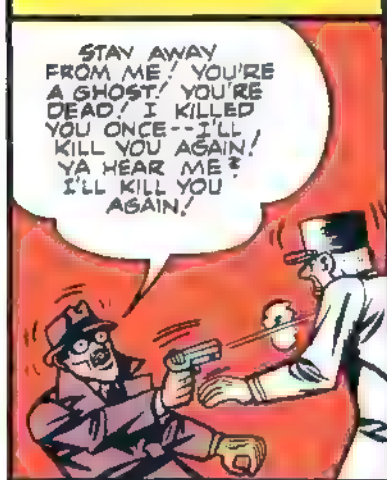


NOW'S THE TIME, ROBIN!

VIPFEE, LEMME AT 'EM!



PANIC CLAMPS ICY FINGERS ABOUT THE CRIMINAL'S HEART-- AND THEN SOMETHING SNAPS IN HIS BRAIN!



STAY AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE A GHOST! YOU'RE DEAD! I KILLED YOU ONCE-- I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN! YA HEAR ME? I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN!



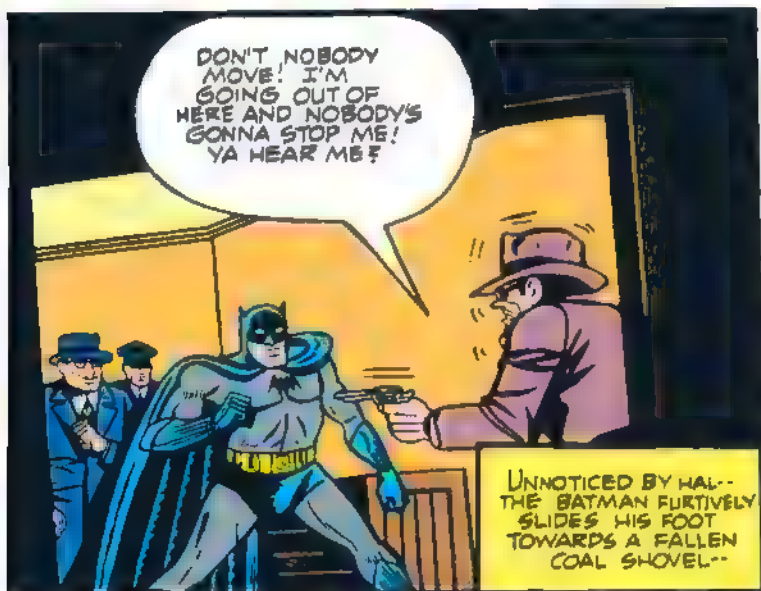
OKAY, HAL-- THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO KNOW!

HUH? WHAT?



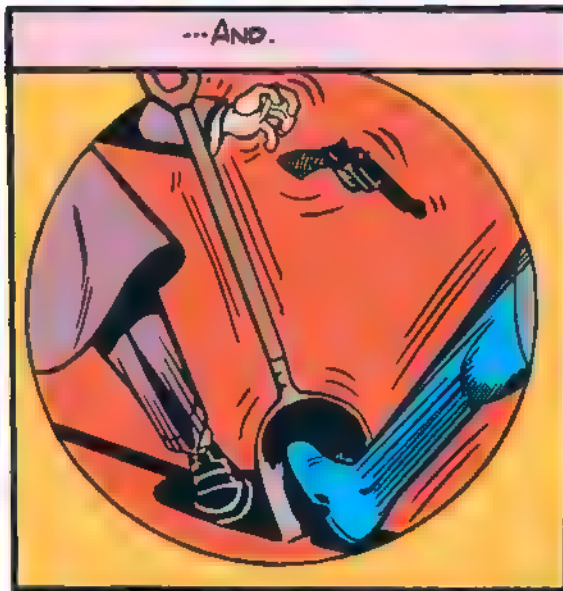
SURPRISED, EH? DON'T BE-- JUST BLANKS AND MAKEUP! AS SIMPLE AS ALL THAT. YOUR CONSCIENCE DID THE REST!

OH, YEAH? GIMME THAT!



DON'T, NOBODY MOVE! I'M GOING OUT OF HERE AND NOBODY'S GONNA STOP ME! YA HEAR ME?

UNNOTICED BY HAL-- THE BATMAN FURTIVELY SLIDES HIS FOOT TOWARDS A FALLEN COAL SHOVEL--



--AND.



MY CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU, HAL!



THE NEXT MORNING-- CHRISTMAS DAY!

BIG DAY TODAY, EH?

YOU SAID IT!

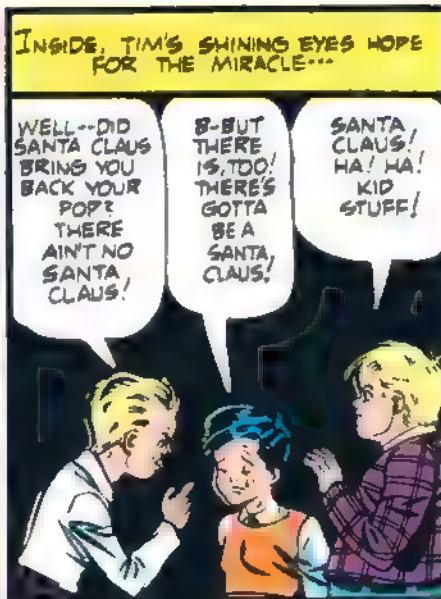
OH, HELLO-- IS THAT YOU, GORDON? WELL, LISTEN-- BZZ--BZZZ--

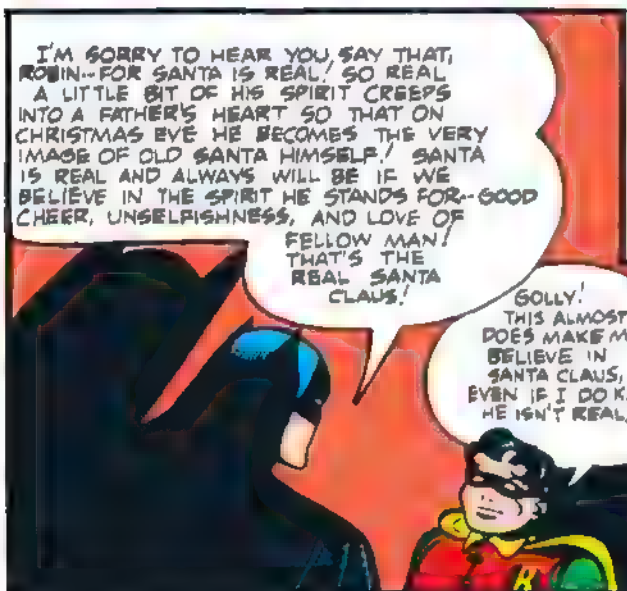


LATER-- SANTA TAKES A RIDE IN THE PATROL CAR!

WHAT'S THE IDEA OF DRAGGIN' ALONG THIS PHONEY SANTA FROM HAL'S GANG?

SEARCH ME-- IT'S COMMISSIONER GORDON'S ORDER TO TAKE HIM TO THE ORPHANAGE.







The **BATMAN**

No. 61



Detective

MARCH

COMICS

**BATMAN
AND
ROBIN
VERSUS
"THE THREE
RACKETEERS"**



BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN

THIS IS A STORY OF THREE--
OF A KIND--OF A TRIO OF ROGUES
WHO FORMED A TRIPLE-THREAT
AGAINST LAW AND ORDER--SO
THAT CRIME WOULD PAY!
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER FIND PERILOUS
THREE-STAR ADVENTURE WHEN
THEY CLASH WITH THIS
TRIUMVIRATE OF TROUBLE AND
SMASH A TRI-TERROR COMBINE
IN THE SAGA OF--
"THE THREE
RACKETEERS!"

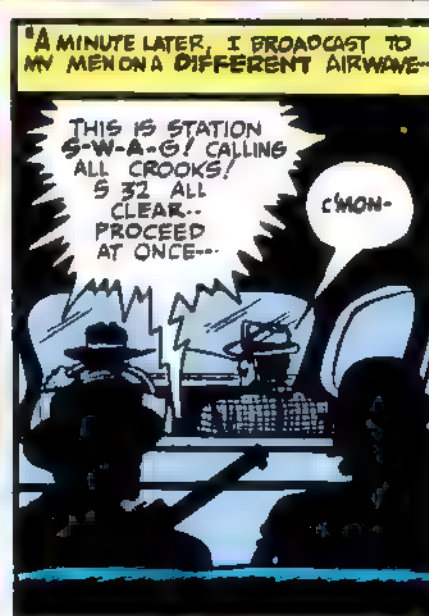
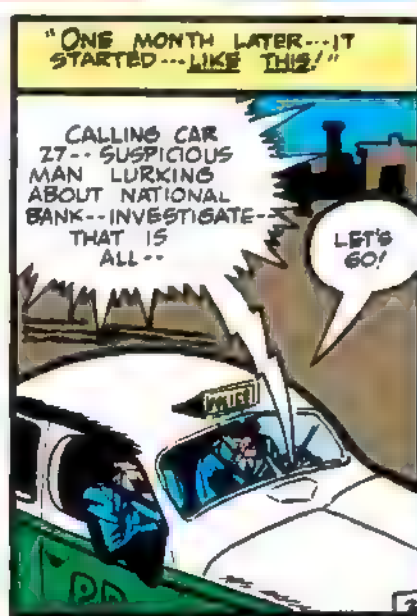
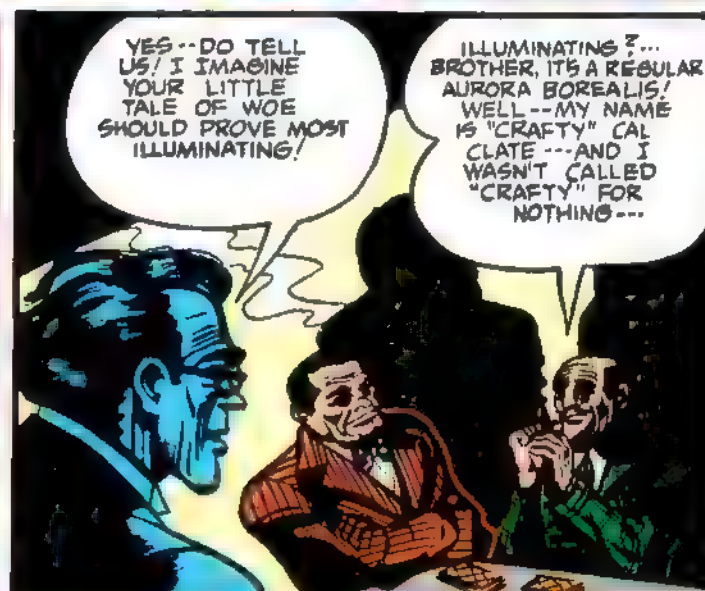
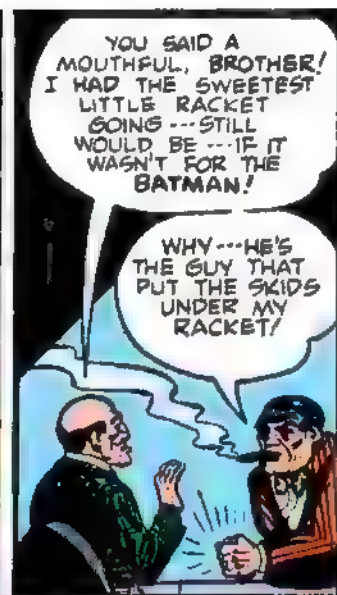
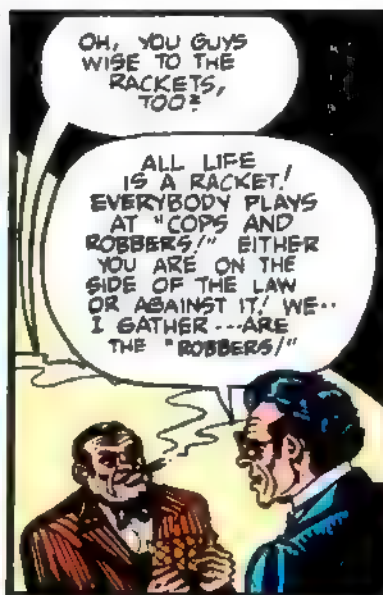
BOB
KANE

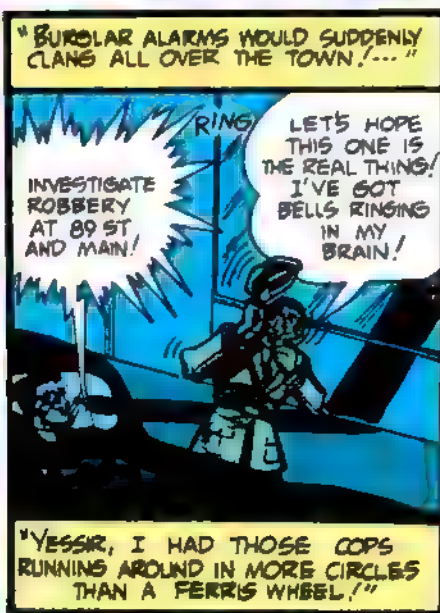
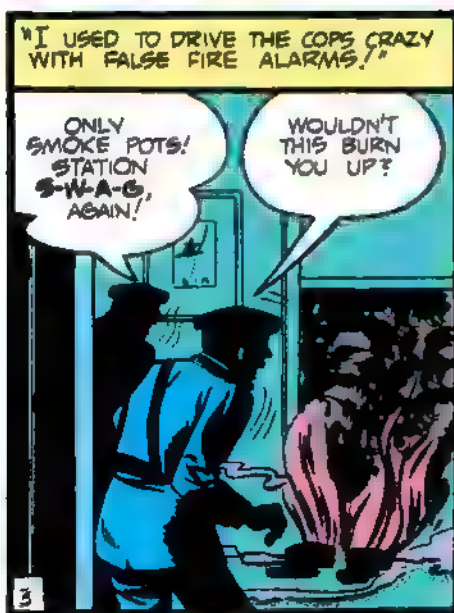
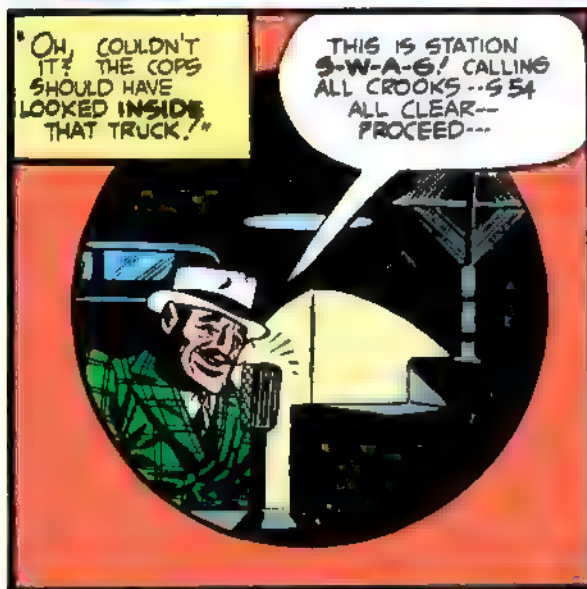
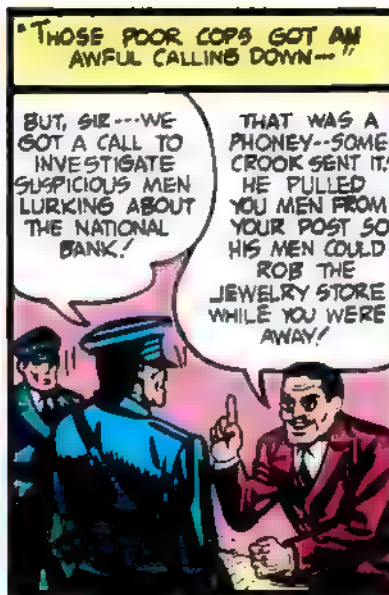
EVERY
STORY
HAS A
BEGINNING

OURS BEGINS IN A SMALL
ROOM WHERE THREE MEN
SIT AND PLAY CARDS---

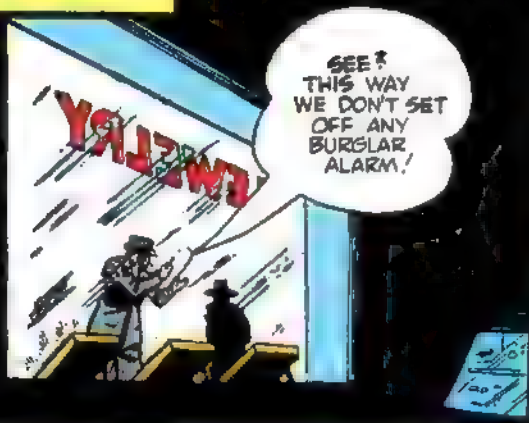
AW! I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M
SITTING HERE AND PLAYIN'
PENNY-ANTE GAMES! I'M
USED TO DOIN' BIG
THINGS!





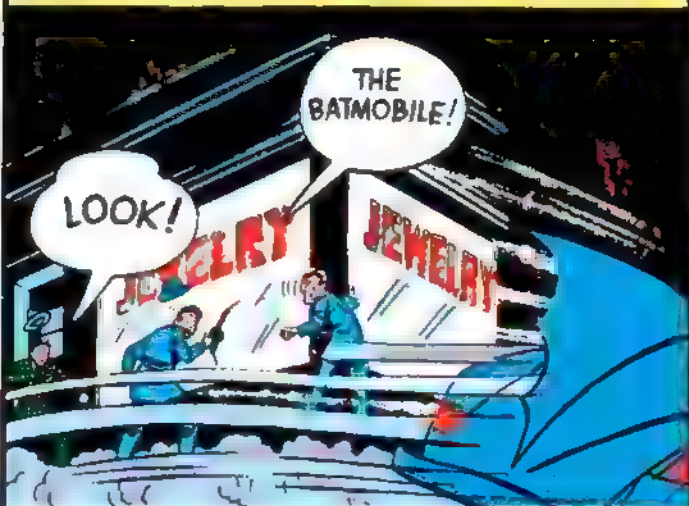


"ONE NIGHT, AFTER
SENDING THE COPS
OUT ON A WILD-
GOOSE CHASE, THE
BOYS ARE JUST
STARTING A JOB--"



SEE?
THIS WAY
WE DON'T SET
OFF ANY
BURGLAR
ALARM!

"SUDDENLY SOMETHING WHIZZES AROUND THE CORNER LIKE
A SKYROCKET!"



LOOK!

THE
BATMOBILE!

"I FOUND
OUT LATER THAT
THE BATMAN
WENT STREAKING
AROUND THE
TOWN IN THAT
BATMOBILE OF HIS!
THAT SUPER-
CHARGED CAR WAS
SO FAST HE WAS
ABLE TO ANSWER
EVERY CALL THAT
WENT OUT! THAT'S
HOW HE CAUGHT
UP TO US!"



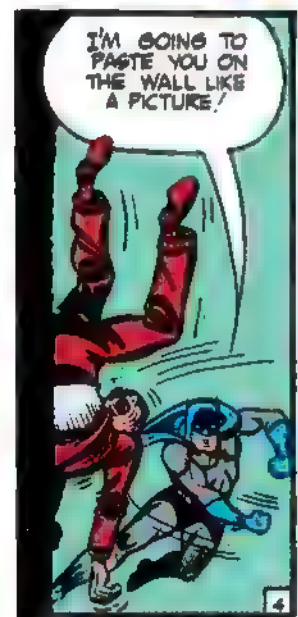
"WELL, OUT OF THAT CAR
CAME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN,
SLAMMING INTO MY BOYS!"



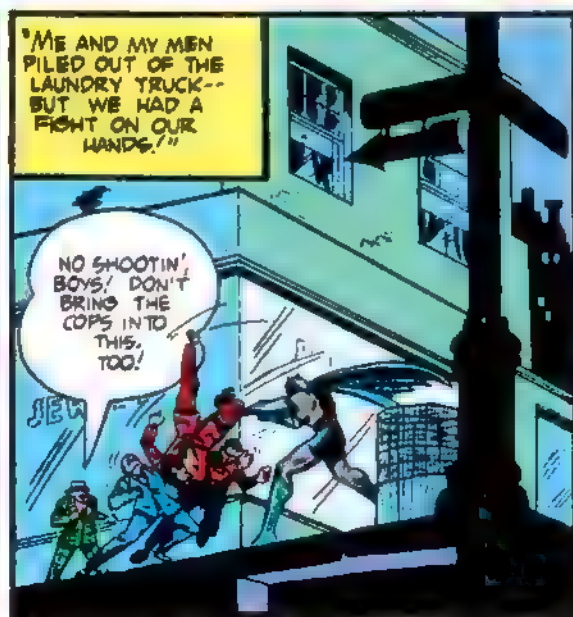
STAND ON
YOUR FEET
AND FIGHT
LIKE MEN!



DID YOU
SAY YOU
WANTED YOUR
FACE
LIFTED?



I'M GOING TO
PASTE YOU ON
THE WALL LIKE
A PICTURE!



"ME AND MY MEN
PILED OUT OF THE
LAUNDRY TRUCK--
BUT WE HAD A
FIGHT ON OUR
HANDS."

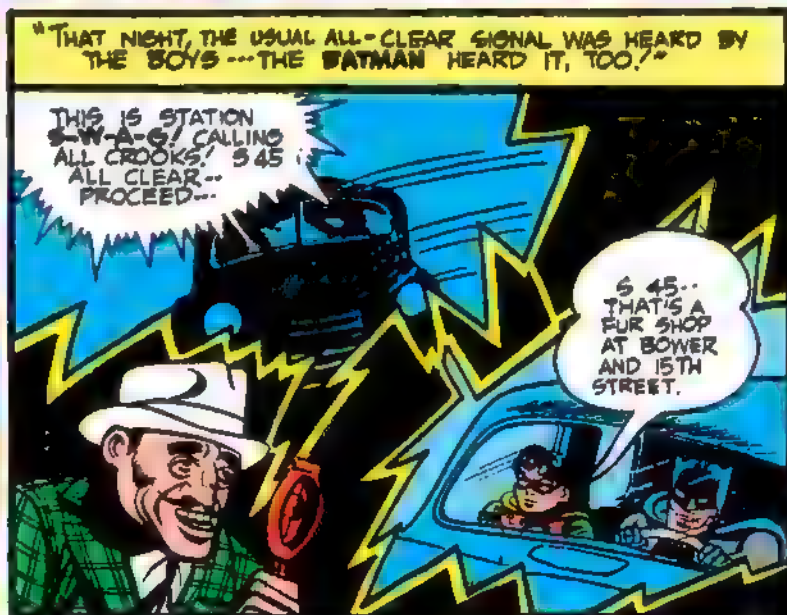
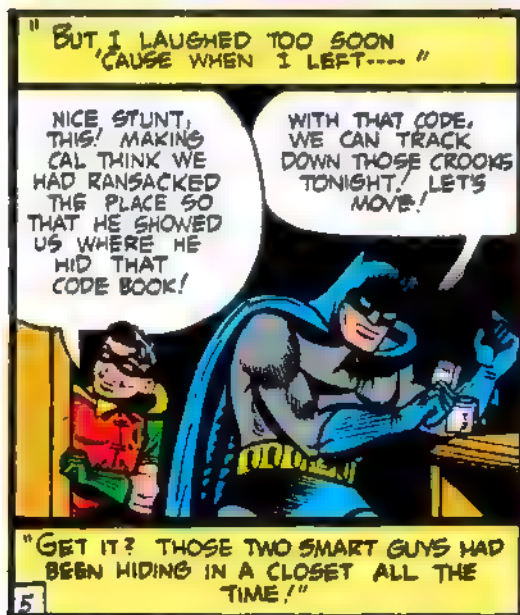
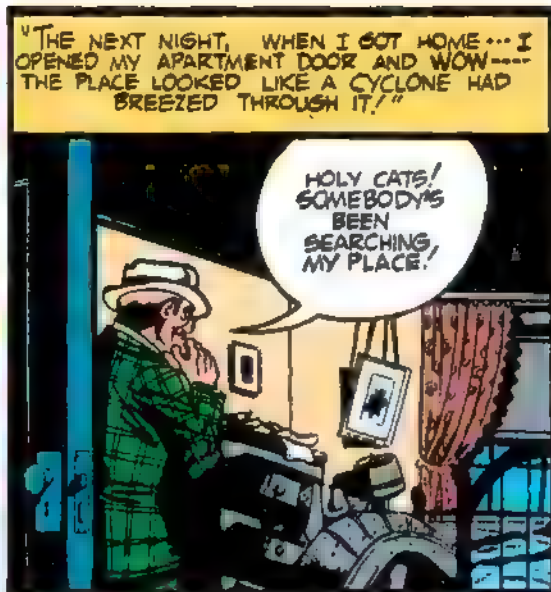
NO SHOOTIN'
BOYS! DON'T
BRING THE
COPS INTO
THIS,
TOO!

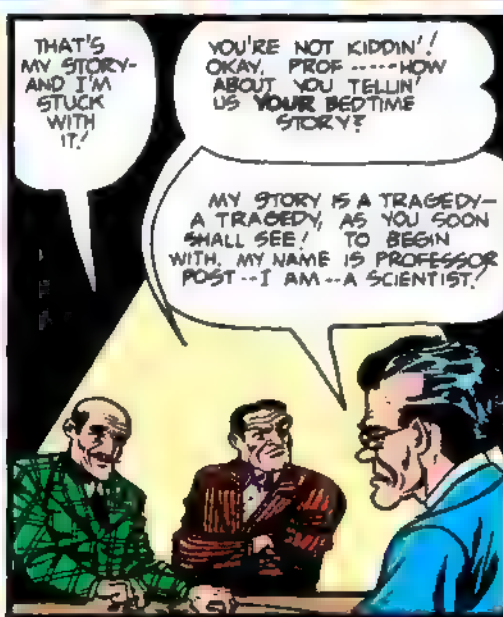
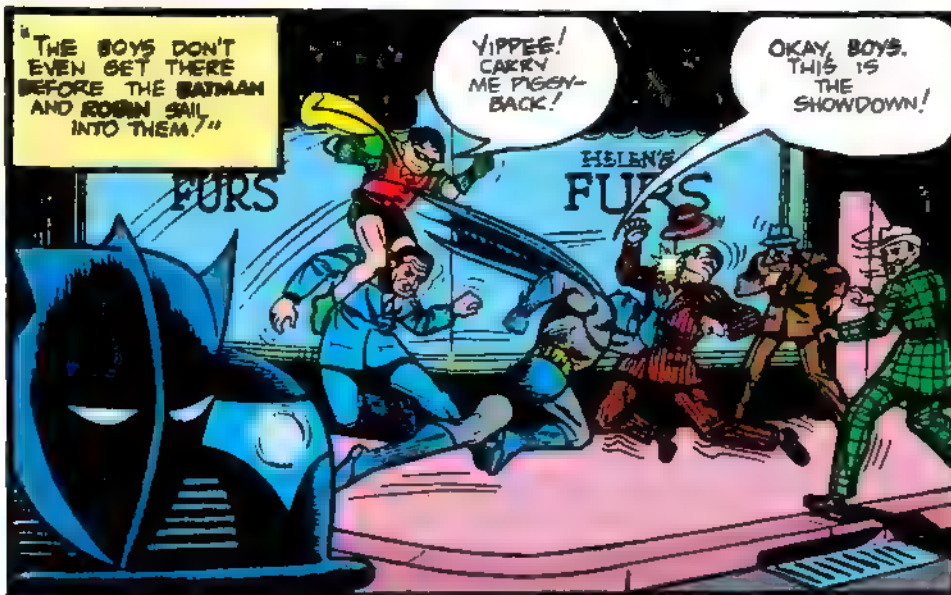


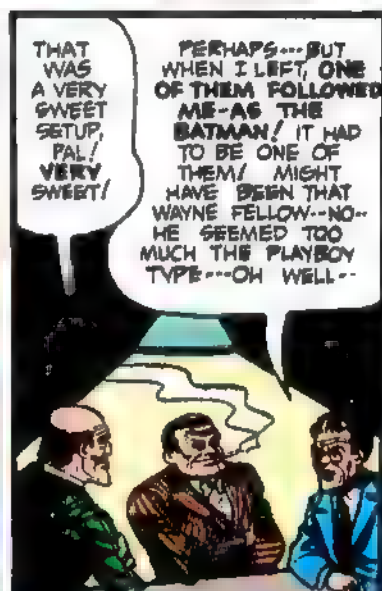
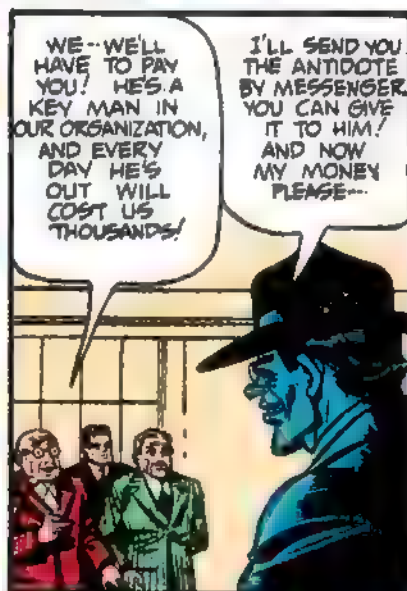
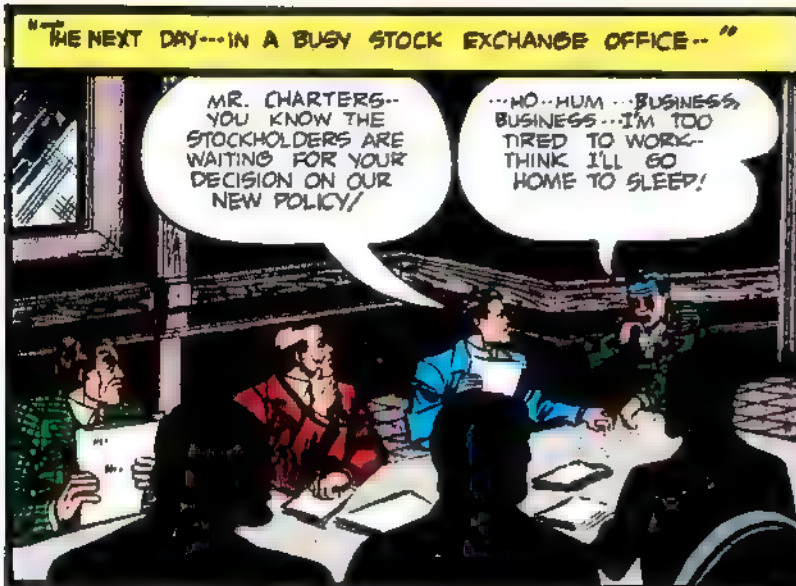
"SOME OF THE BOYS MANAGED TO
GET A COUPLE OF LUCKY POKES IN--
AND THEY WENT DOWN, STILL
FIGHTING--"

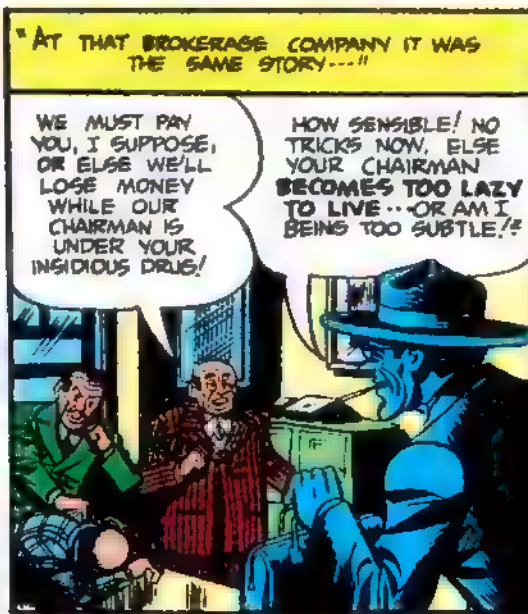
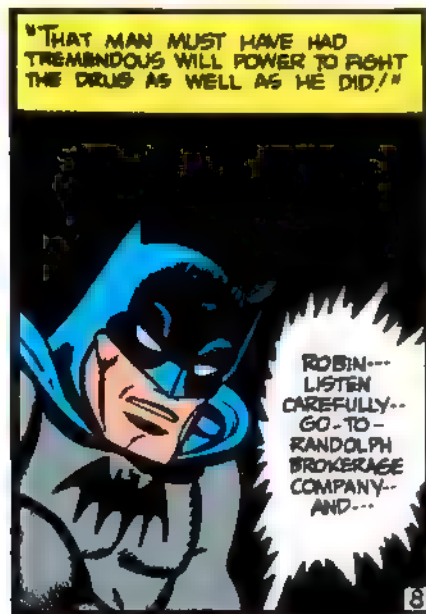
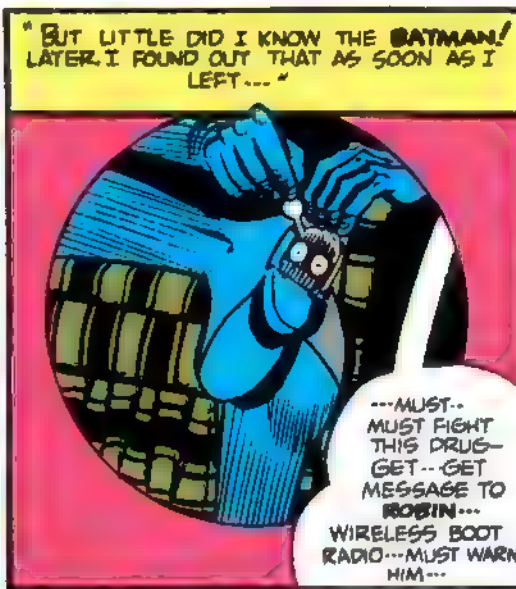
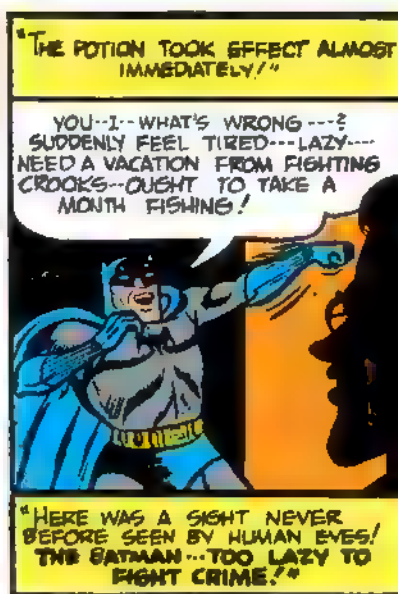
DON'T
NOTHIN'
STOP YOU,
MISTER?

THAT DOES IT!
NOW LET'S
SCRAM OUT
OF HERE
BEFORE THE
COPS SHOW
UP!









"LATER, AFTER HAVING PUT A DISGUISE ON IN THE WASHROOM, I WAS SURE NOBODY WOULD RECOGNIZE ME."



"NOBODY WILL TRAIL ME THIS TIME--EVEN THAT SHINE BOY WON'T KNOW ME WITH THESE NEW CLOTHES ON!"

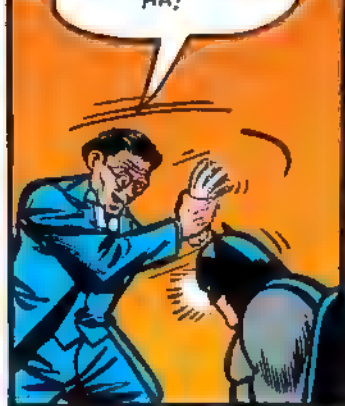
"BUT ALAS, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MY SHOES WERE GIVING ME AWAY TO THAT BOY WHO WATCHED ME FROM BEHIND HIS THICK GLASSES!"

"I WENT HOME EXULTANT! I TAUNTED THE HELPLESS BATMAN. I HAD THE WORLD UNDER MY SCIENTIFIC THUMB!"



HA! HA! NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE REAL MONEY! I'LL SELL MY SERVICES TO A FOREIGN POWER! I'LL MAKE DEFENSE LEADERS LAZY--I'LL MAKE A POWDERED FORM--

---AND SPRAY THE DRUG FROM A PLANE! I'LL MAKE THE NATION HELPLESS! THEY'LL BE LIKE YOU! WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT BACK? YOU CAN'T! HA! HA!



WHO?...

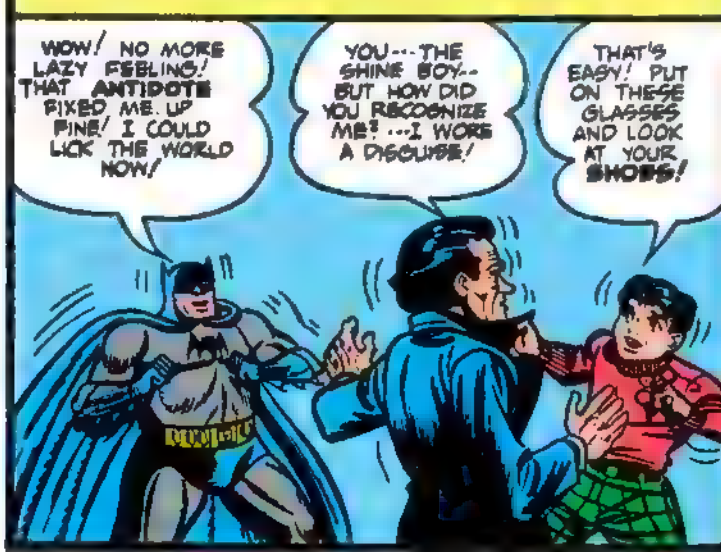
SHINE, MISTER?

"THAT BOY HIT ME AND MY WHOLE WORLD TOPPLED--"



BE GOOD AND I'LL ONLY HAVE TO HIT YOU ONCE!

"LATER...WHEN I OPENED MY EYES--"



WOW! NO MORE LAZY FEELING! THAT ANTIDOTE FIXED ME UP FINE! I COULD LICK THE WORLD NOW!

YOU--THE SHINE BOY-- BUT HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE ME? ...I WORE A DISGUISE!

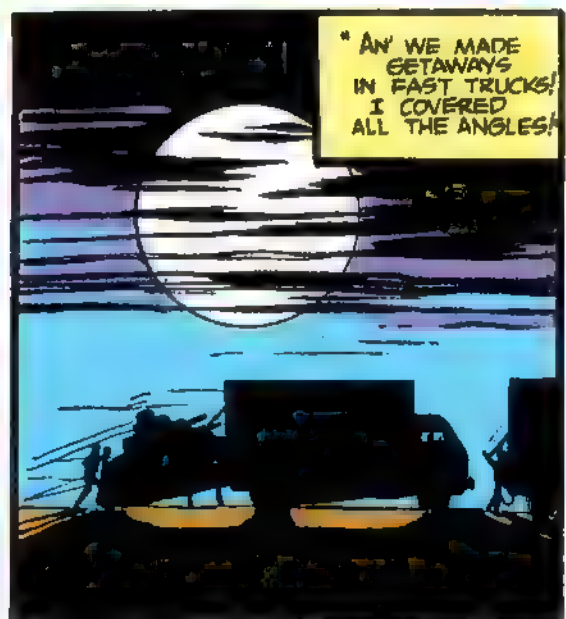
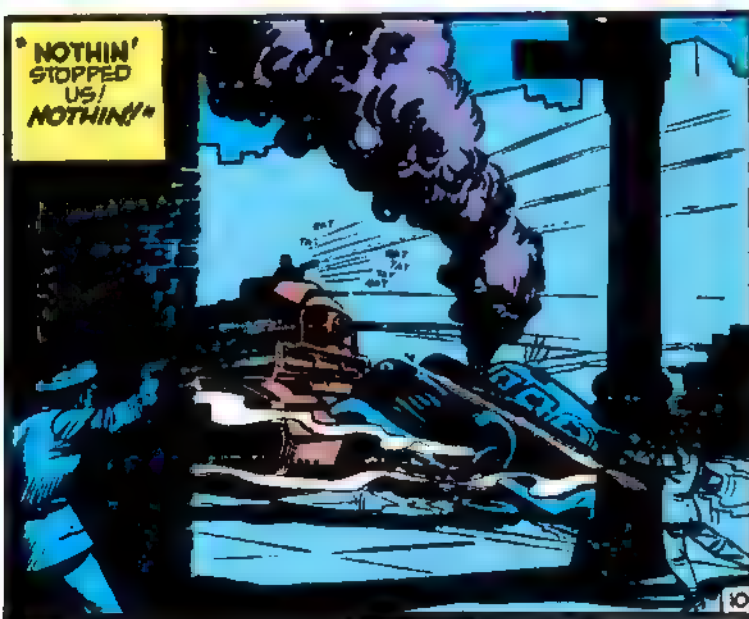
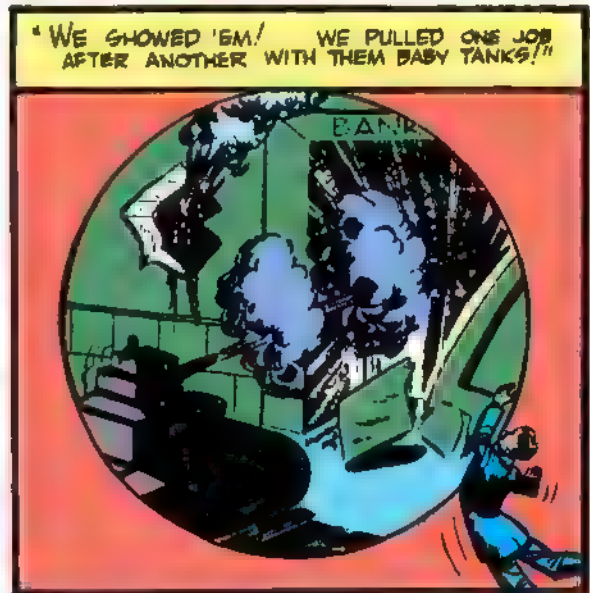
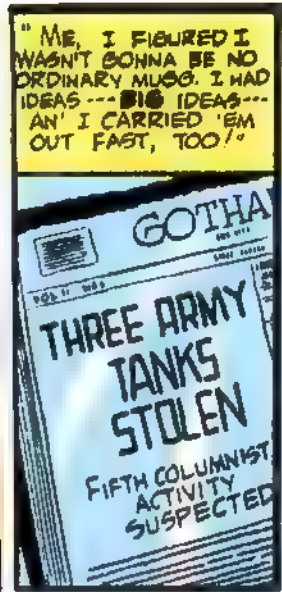
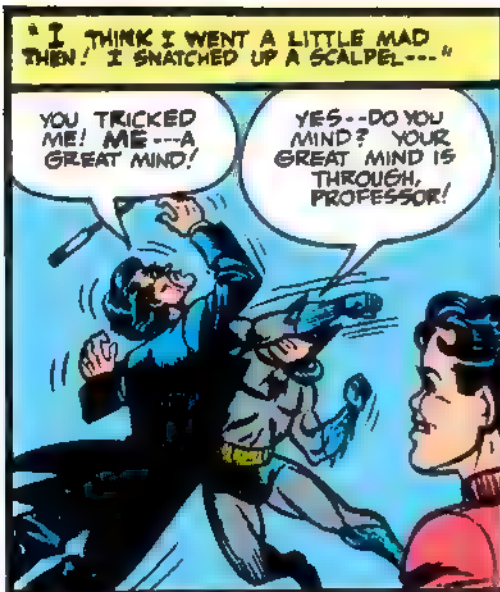
THAT'S EASY! PUT ON THESE GLASSES AND LOOK AT YOUR SHOES!

"MIRACULOUSLY, UNDER THE GLASSES, MY SHOES GLOWED WITH AN UNEARTHLY LIGHT!"



MY SHOES --THEY SHINE UNDER THESE GLASSES--

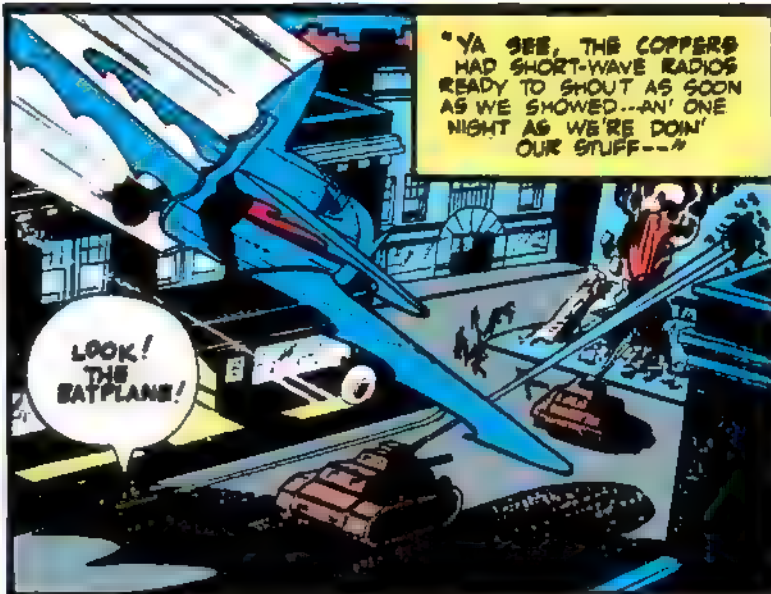
INFRA-RED LENSES THAT REVEAL THE SPECIAL CHEMICAL POLISH I PUT ON YOUR SHOES! YOU CHANGED YOUR CLOTHING--BUT NOT YOUR SHOES! I FOLLOWED THEM!



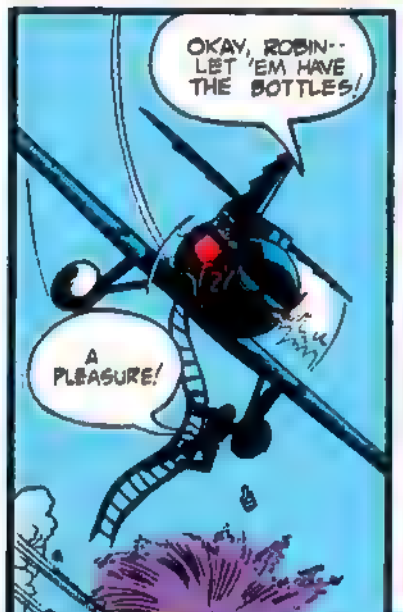
"SOON THE WHOLE TOWN BEGAN TO SIT UP AN' TAKE NOTICE! WE WERE FRONT-PAGE NEWS!"



"YEP--I HAD EVERYTHING FIGURED OUT...BUT I FORGOT ONE GUY ---- THE BATMAN!"



"YA SEE, THE COPPERB HAD SHORT-WAVE RADIOS READY TO SHOUT AS SOON AS WE SHOWED--AN' ONE NIGHT AS WE'RE DOIN' OUR STUFF--"



OKAY, ROBIN--
LET 'EM HAVE
THE BOTTLES!

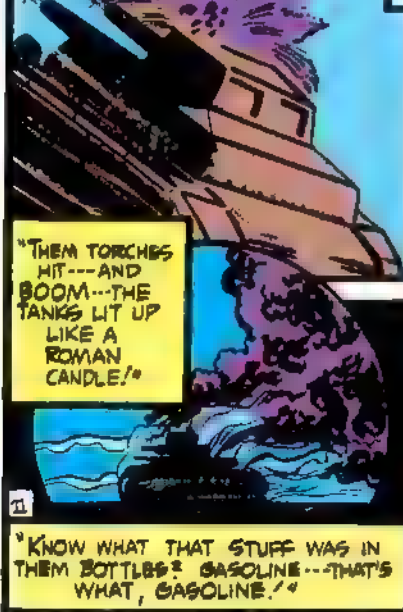
A
PLEASURE!



"THEM BOTTLES HIT THE TANKS, BROKE OPEN AND SPLASHED SOME KIND OF LIQUID ALL OVER 'EM.'"



"THEN THAT KID STARTED THROWIN' FLAMING TORCHES AT THE TANKS."



"THEM TORCHES HIT---AND BOOM---THE TANKS LIT UP LIKE A ROMAN CANDLE!"

"KNOW WHAT THAT STUFF WAS IN THEM BOTTLES? GASOLINE---THAT'S WHAT, GASOLINE!"



"PRETTY SOON THE INSIDE OF EACH TANK FELT LIKE A HOT STOVE!"

LETME
OUTA
HERE!

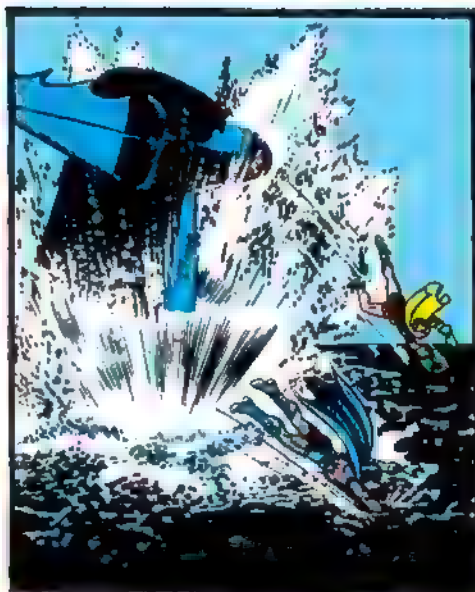
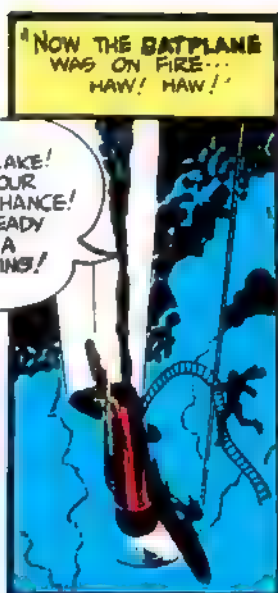
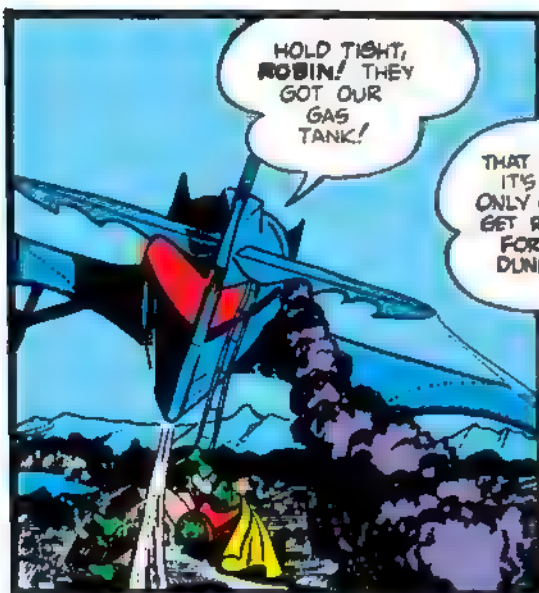
AN I
USTA LIKE
BOILED
CHICKEN!



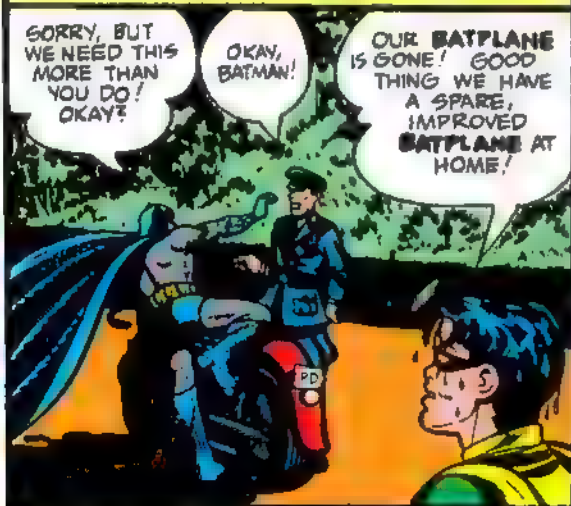
"WE HOPPED OUTA THEM TANKS LIKE THEY WAS POISON---AND INTO OUR TRUCKS! BUT I HAD AN ACE IN THE HOLE, TOO!"

GIVE IT TO
'EM! BLAST
'EM OUTA
THE SKY!

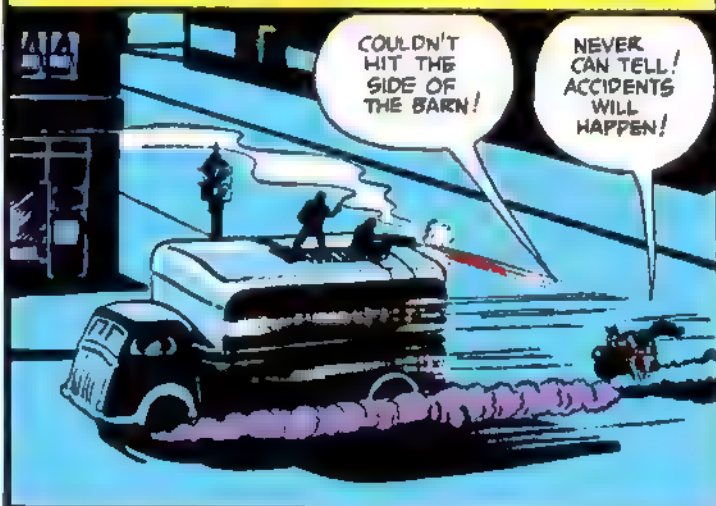
"THE TOPS OF OUR TRUCKS FOLDED BACK. I HAD MACHINE GUNS PLANTED THERE!"



"THEM TWO HAD MORE LIVES THAN A CAT! THEY WERE OKAY...AND READY FOR MORE ACTION!"



"WE COULDN'T SHAKE 'EM! THEY STUCK TO OUR TAIL LIKE GLUE!"



"WE GOT TO THE HIDEOUT AND GOT READY FOR A FIGHT!"

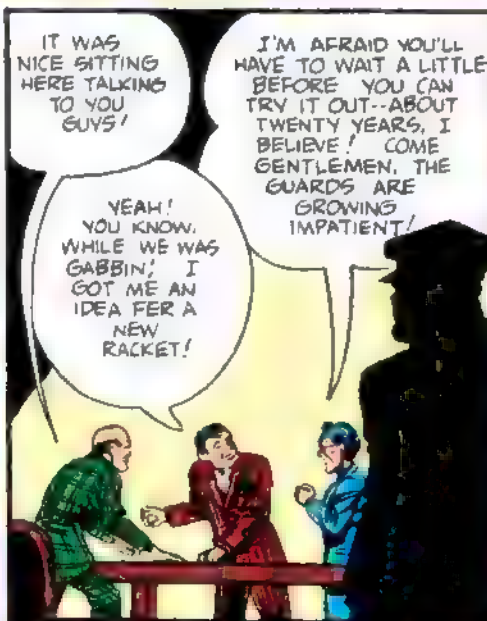
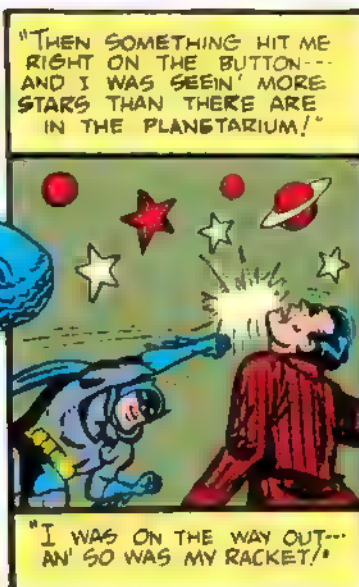
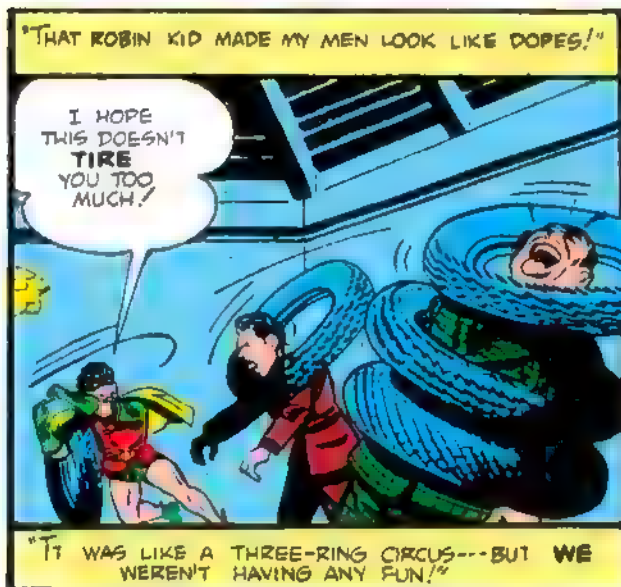
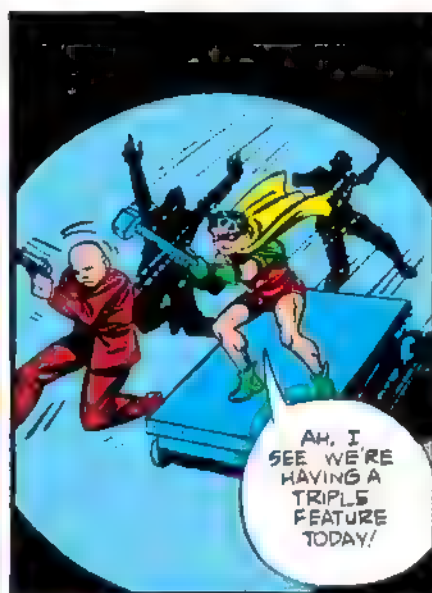
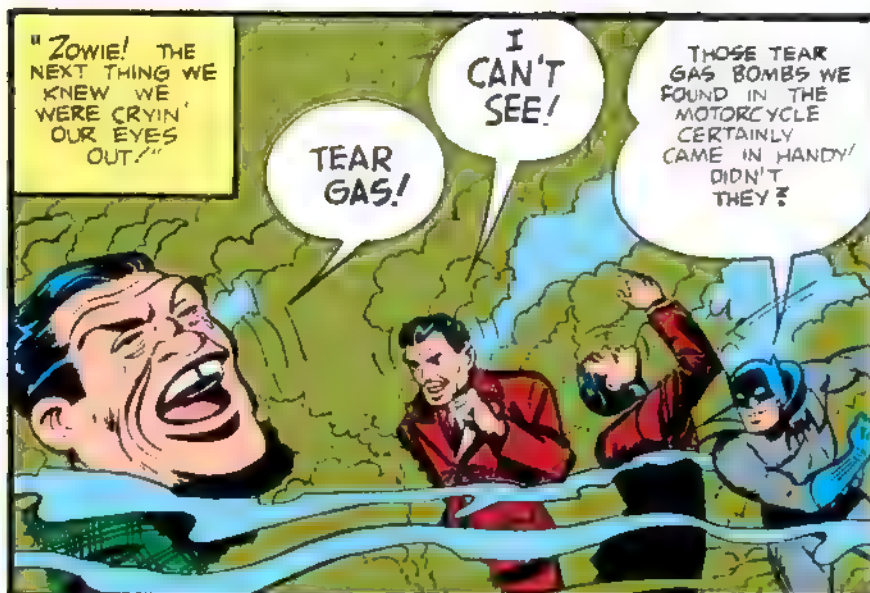


"SUDDENLY, THE DOOR CRASHED RIGHT IN! THAT MOTORCYCLE MUST HAVE HIT IT LIKE A CANNON BALL!"



"COMIN' THROUGH THAT DOOR WAS TROUBLE.... IN CAPITAL LETTERS!"





No. 5

SPRING ISSUE

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS



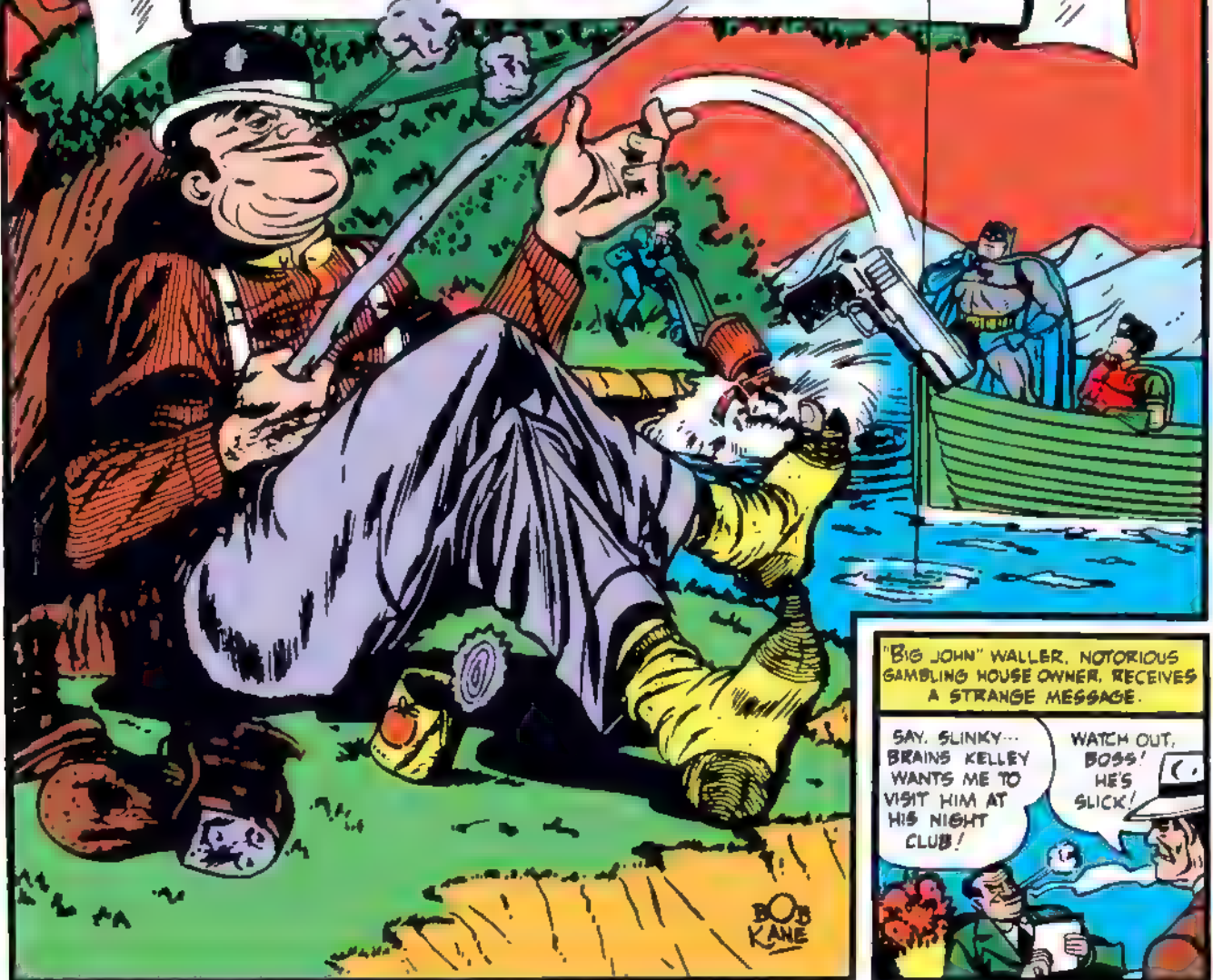
**96
THRILLING
PAGES!**

**SUPERMAN • BATMAN AND ROBIN
SANDMAN • ZATARA
RED, WHITE & BLUE**

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

MIDNIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY... AND CHURCH BELLS CHIME A CURFEW FOR CRIME! ALL OUTLAWRY IS BANISHED! THE CZARS OF CROOKDOM ABANDON THE QUEST FOR EASY MONEY AND TURN SUDDENLY TO HONEST LABOR! AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, AN AMAZED METROPOLIS MARVELS AT A MODERN MIRACLE AS MOBSTERS AND MUSCLEMEN 'GO STRAIGHT' AND OBSERVE THE LAW TO THE VERY LETTER! YES... IT LOOKS INDEED AS IF THE FAMED CRIME-BUSTERS BATMAN AND ROBIN OUGHT TO PACK AWAY THEIR CLOAKED COSTUMES IN MOTH BALLS WHEN... "CRIME TAKES A HOLIDAY."

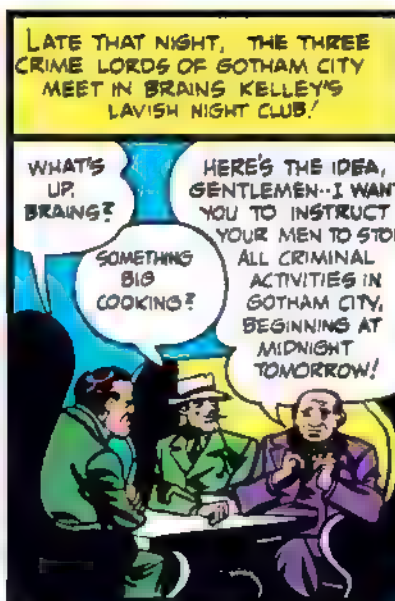
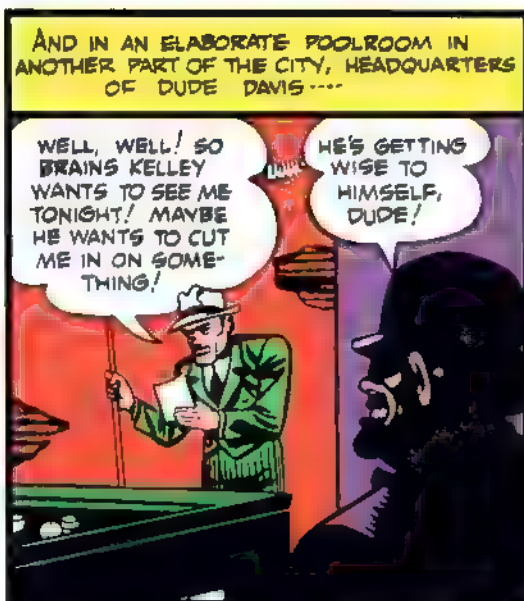


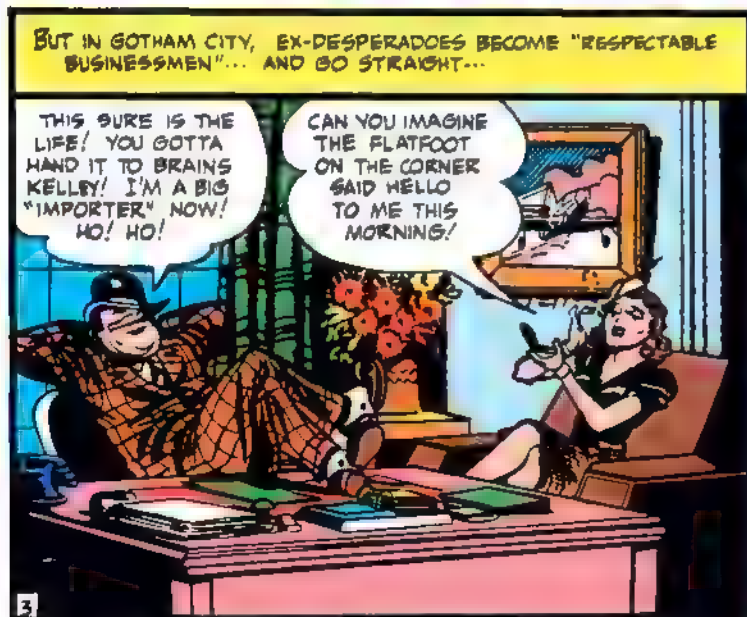
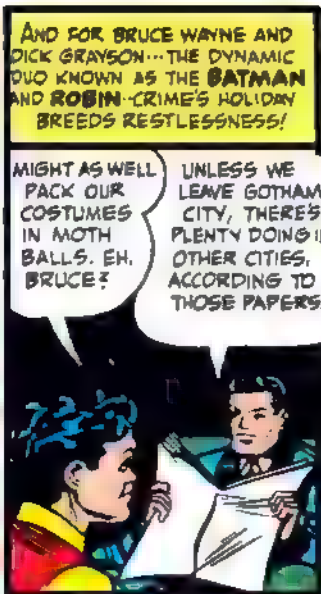
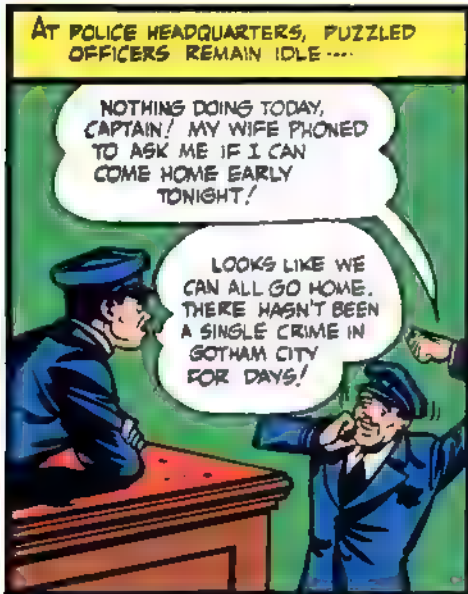
"BIG JOHN" WALLER, NOTORIOUS GAMBLING HOUSE OWNER, RECEIVES A STRANGE MESSAGE.

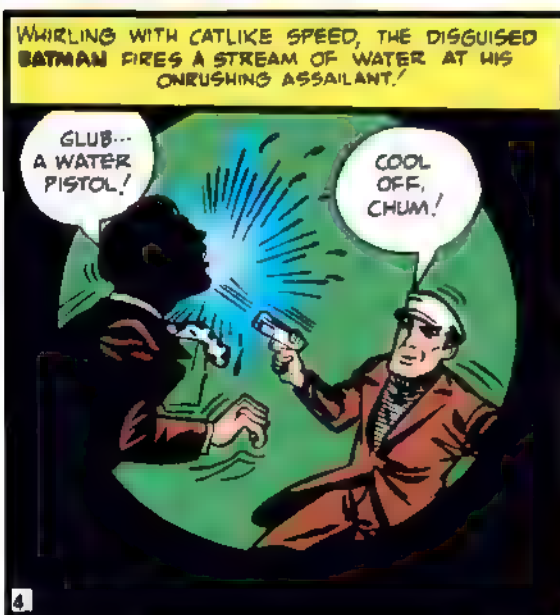
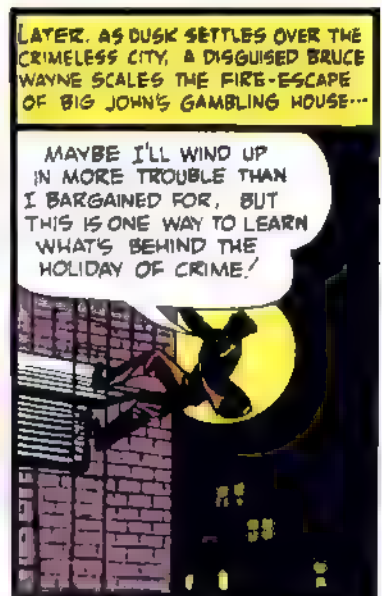
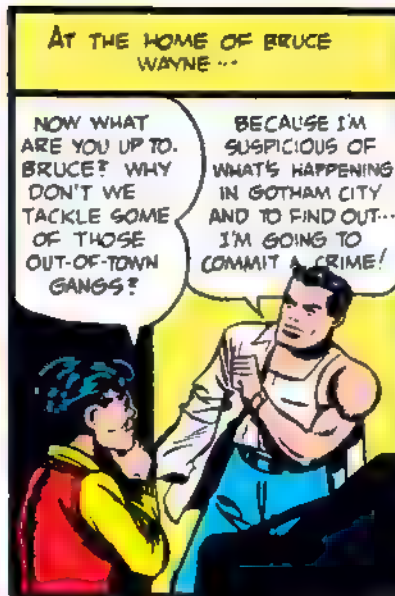
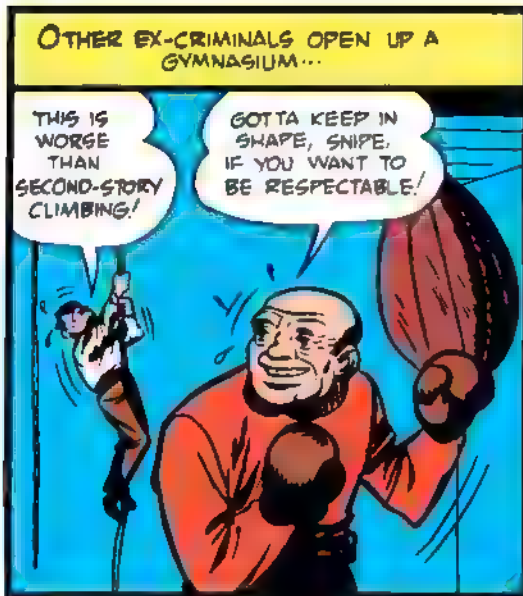
SAY, SLINKY... BRAINS KELLEY WANTS ME TO VISIT HIM AT HIS NIGHT CLUB!

WATCH OUT, BOSS! HE'S SLICK!



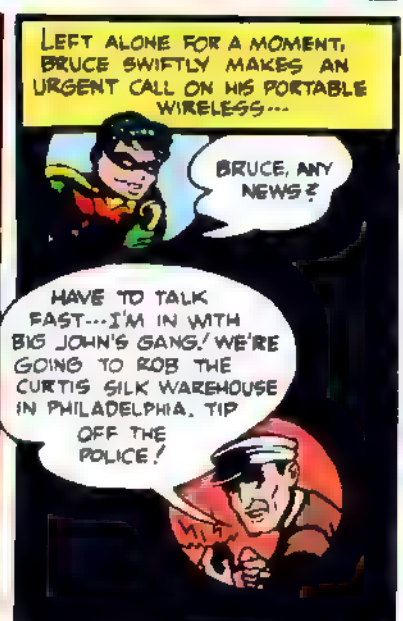
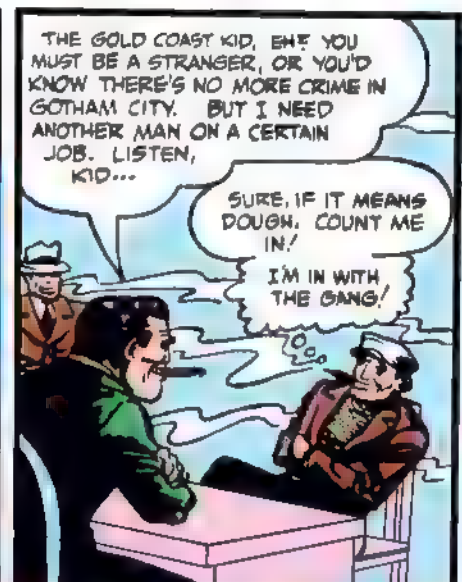








HAD BRUCE BROUGHT THE POWERFUL MUSCLES OF THE BATMAN INTO PLAY, HE COULD EASILY HAVE HURLED BIG JOHN ACROSS THE ROOM---

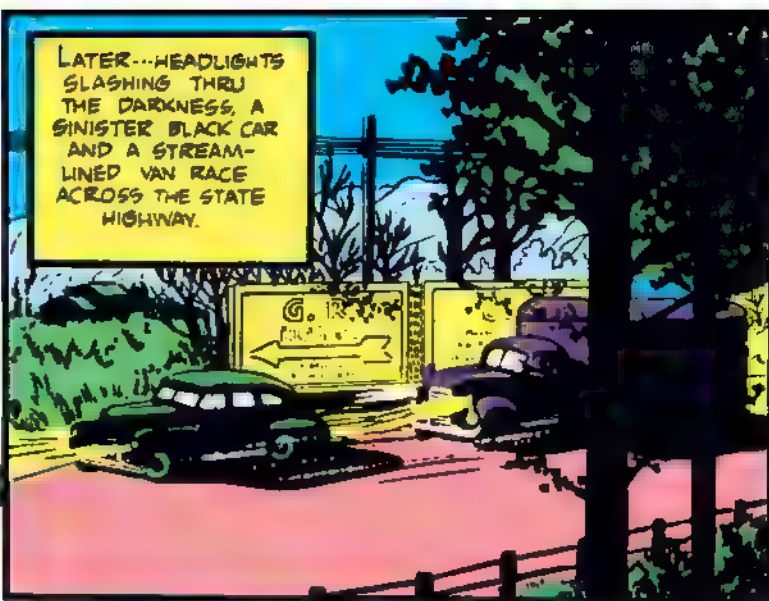




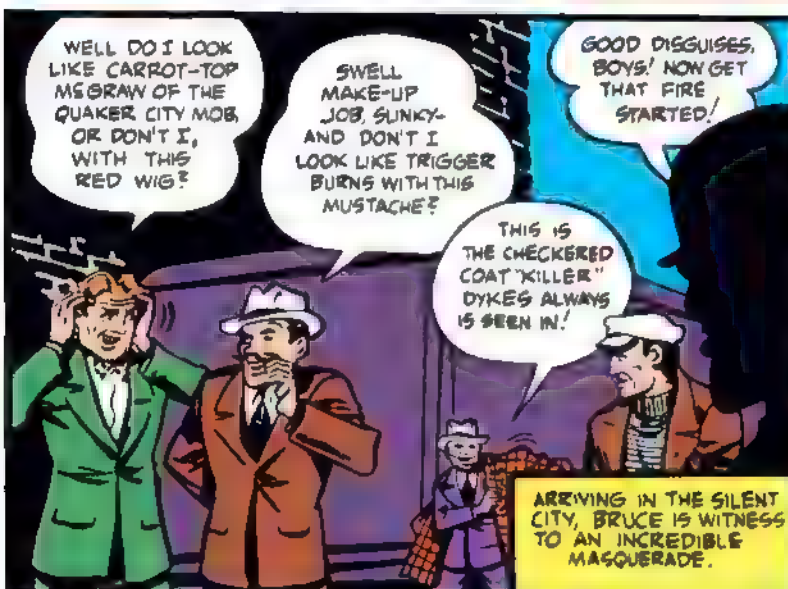
THE "GOLD COAST KID" REJOINS THE GANG...

HOP IN, KID- WE GOTTA GET TO PHILLY FAST SO WE CAN GET BACK TO WORK IN GOTHAM CITY IN THE MORNING!

HOW ARE THEY GOING TO PULL THIS JOB? THEY'LL BE RECOGNIZED!



LATER...HEADLIGHTS SLASHING THRU THE DARKNESS, A SINISTER BLACK CAR AND A STREAM-LINED VAN RACE ACROSS THE STATE HIGHWAY.



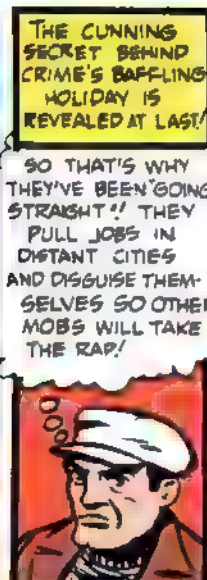
WELL DO I LOOK LIKE CARROT-TOP MCGRAW OF THE QUAKER CITY MOB, OR DON'T I, WITH THIS RED WIG?

SWELL MAKE-UP JOB, SUNKY- AND DON'T I LOOK LIKE TRIGGER BURNS WITH THIS MUSTACHE?

GOOD DISGUISES, BOYS! NOW GET THAT FIRE STARTED!

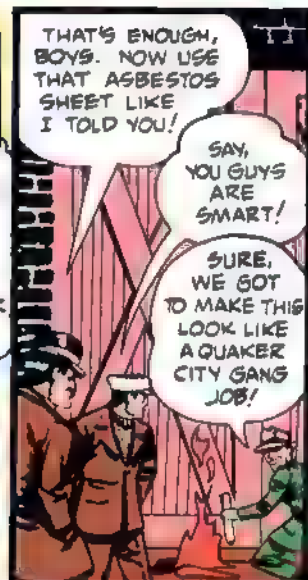
THIS IS THE CHECKERED COAT "KILLER" DYKES ALWAYS IS SEEN IN!

ARRIVING IN THE SILENT CITY, BRUCE IS WITNESS TO AN INCREDIBLE MASQUERADE.



THE CUNNING SECRET BEHIND CRIME'S BAFFLING HOLIDAY IS REVEALED AT LAST!

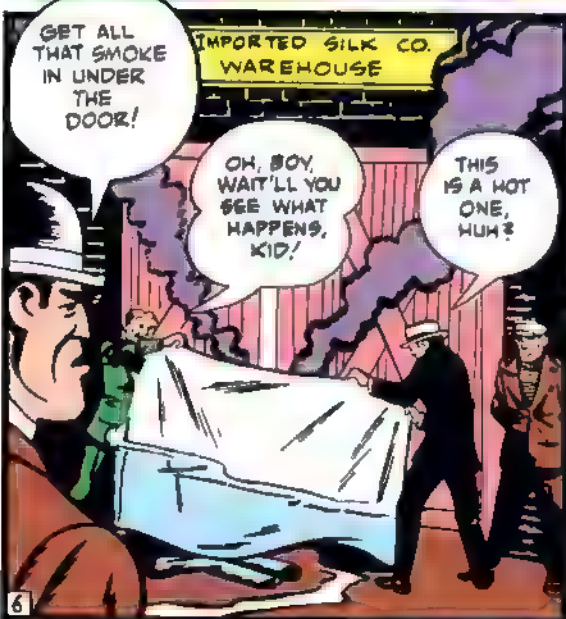
SO THAT'S WHY THEY'VE BEEN GOING STRAIGHT!! THEY PULL JOBS IN DISTANT CITIES AND DISGUISE THEMSELVES SO OTHER MOBS WILL TAKE THE RAP!



THAT'S ENOUGH, BOYS. NOW USE THAT ASBESTOS SHEET LIKE I TOLD YOU!

SAY, YOU GUYS ARE SMART!

SURE, WE GOT TO MAKE THIS LOOK LIKE A QUAKER CITY GANG JOB!



GET ALL THAT SMOKE IN UNDER THE DOOR!

OH, BOY, WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS, KID!

THIS IS A HOT ONE, HUM?



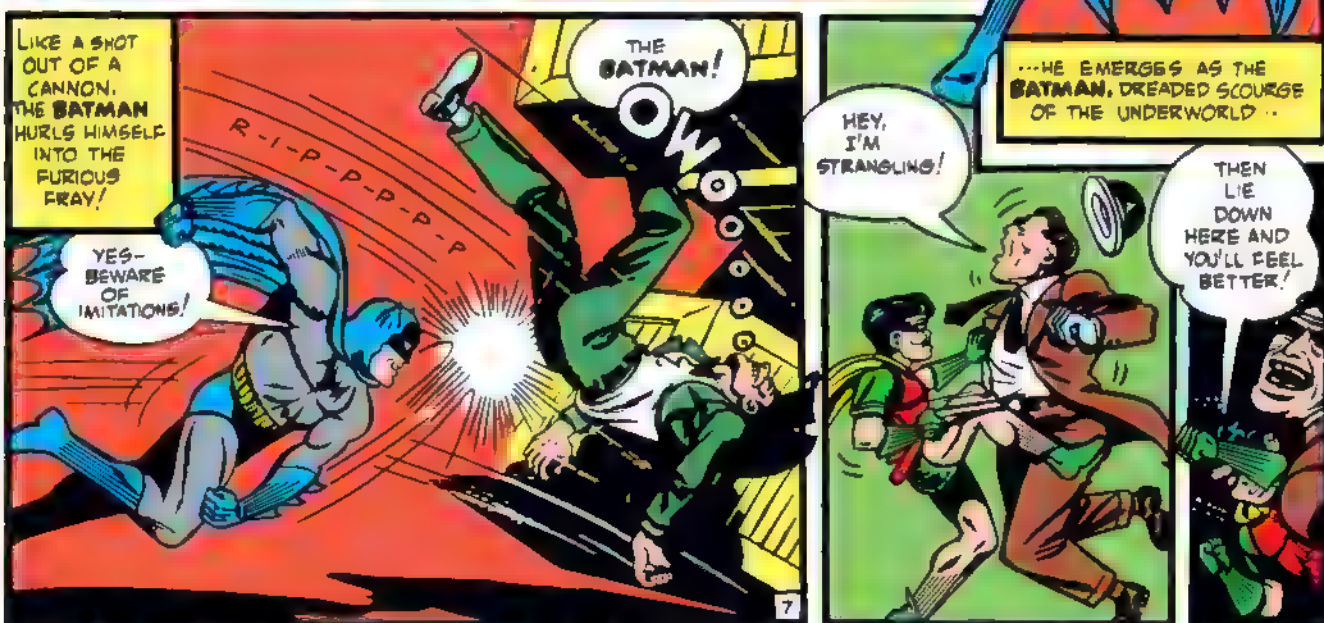
DENSE SMOKE SEEPS IN UNDER THE DOOR... TERRIFIED BY THE FEAR OF FIRE, THE WATCH-MAN RUSHES OUT!

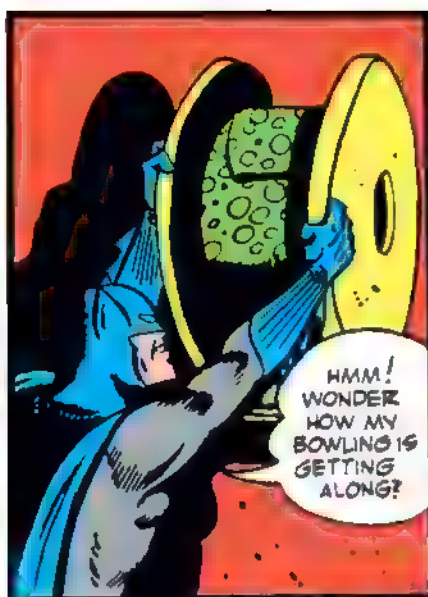
FIRE... OH, CARROT-TOP MCGRAW!

YEAH --THE QUAKER CITY MOB! WE SMOKED YOU OUT, DOPE!

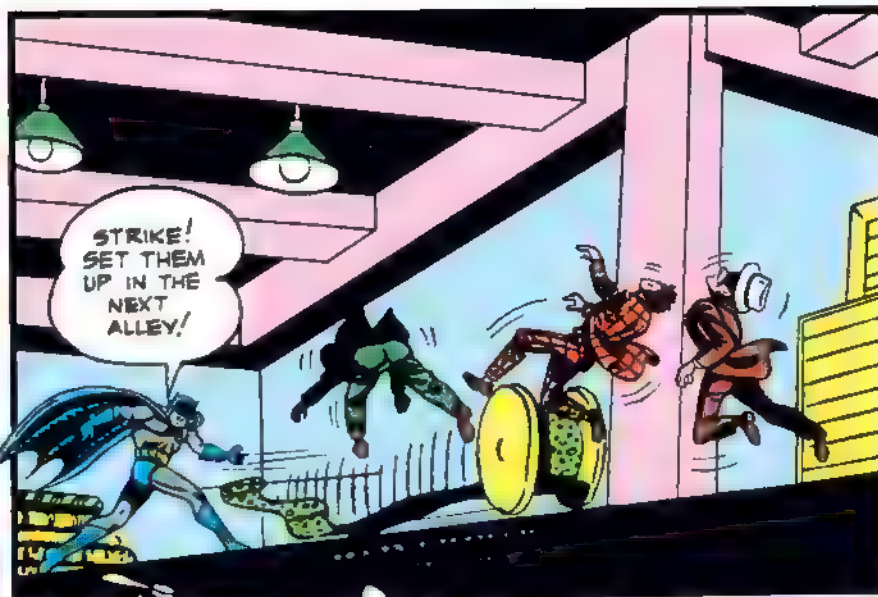


THE SILK IN THIS PLACE IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD NOWADAYS! COME AND GET IT, BOYS!

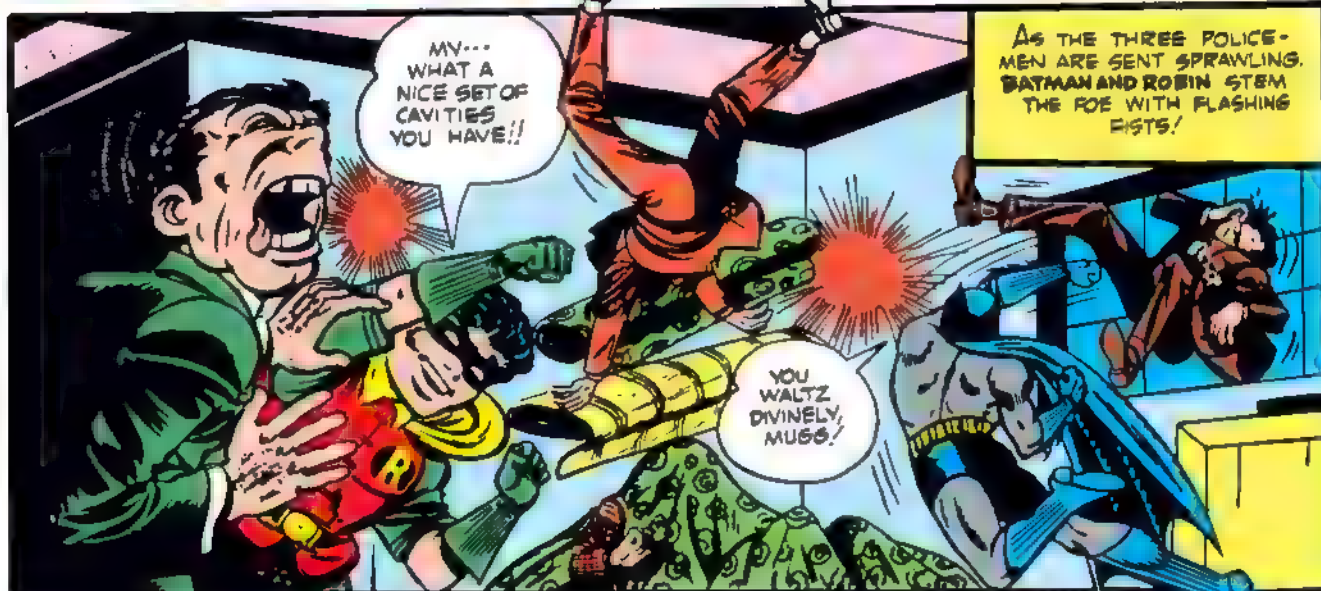




HMM!
WONDER
HOW MY
BOWLING IS
GETTING
ALONG?



STRIKE!
SET THEM
UP IN THE
NEXT
ALLEY!



MY...
WHAT A
NICE SET OF
CAVITIES
YOU HAVE!!

AS THE THREE POLICE-
MEN ARE SENT SPRAWLING,
BATMAN AND ROBIN STEM
THE FOE WITH FLASHING
FISTS!

YOU
WALTZ
DIVINELY,
MUGG!



I
THINK
YELLOW
WOULD BE
MORE
BECOMING!

A TIGHT
FIT, BUT
YOU'RE BOTH
CLOSE
FRIENDS!



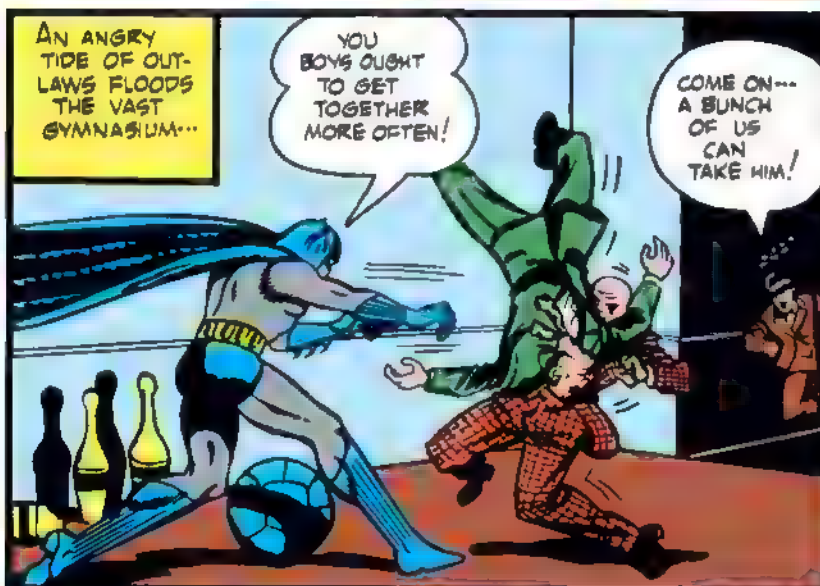
LET'S SCRAM!
WE'D HAVE GOT THE
SILK IF IT WASN'T
FOR THE BATMAN
AND THAT BRAT!

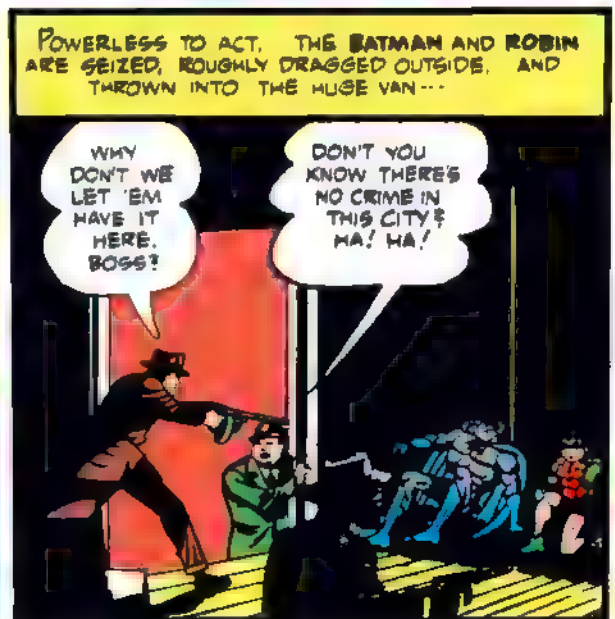
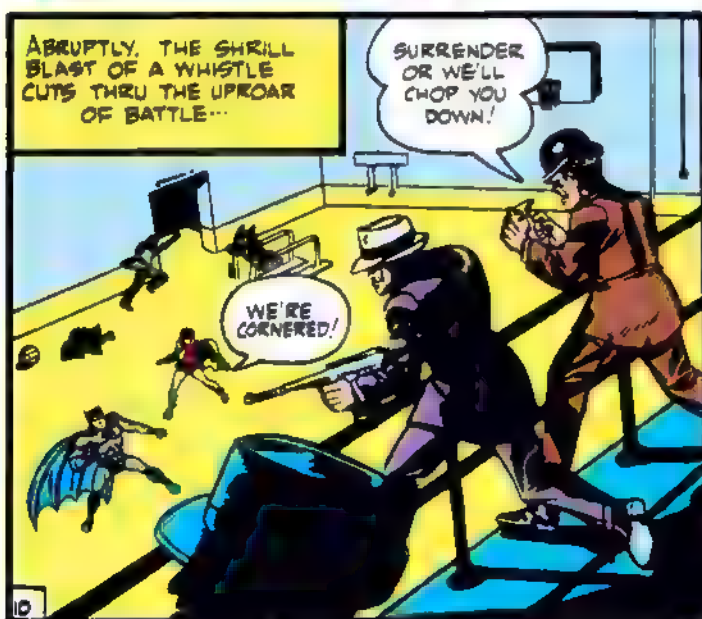
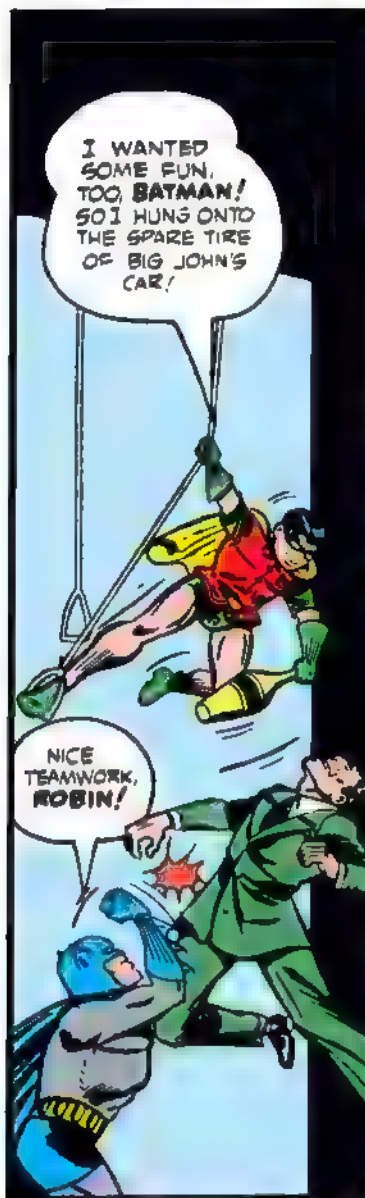


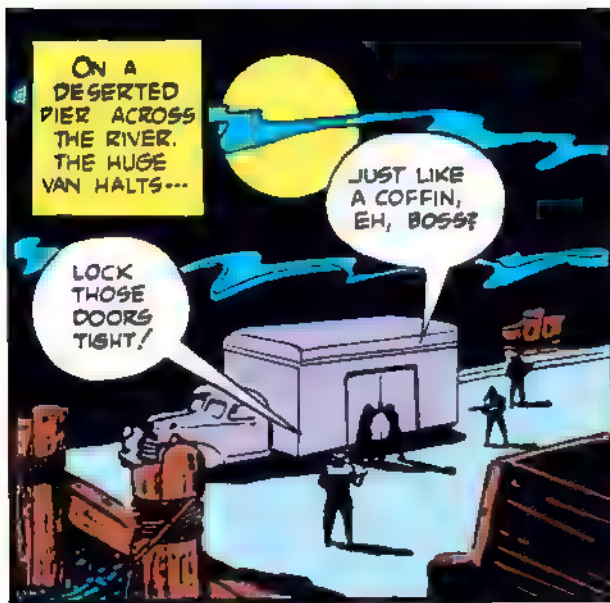
QUICK AS A WINK,
THE BATMAN CHANGES
BACK TO HIS GANGSTER
DISGUISE...

LET THEM ESCAPE!
I'LL GO BACK TO
GOTHAM CITY WITH
THEM TO FIND OUT
ALL THE ANGLES!

AW! YOU
HAVE ALL
THE FUN!



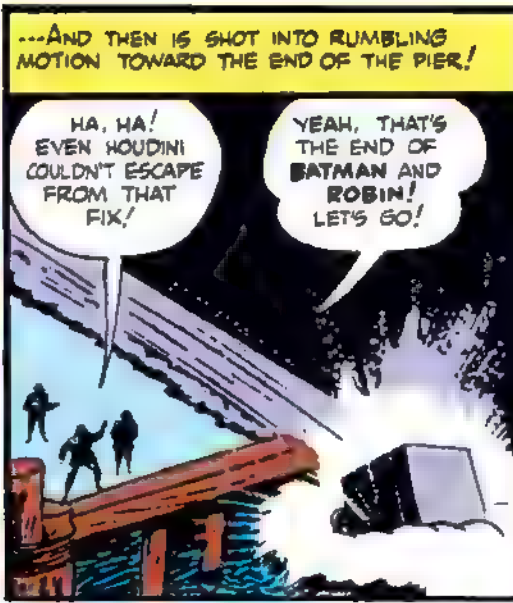




ON A
DESERTED
PIER ACROSS
THE RIVER,
THE HUGE
VAN HALTS---

LOCK
THOSE
DOORS
TIGHT!

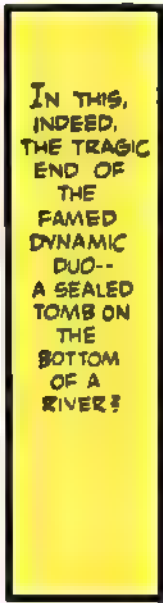
JUST LIKE
A COFFIN,
EH, BOSS?



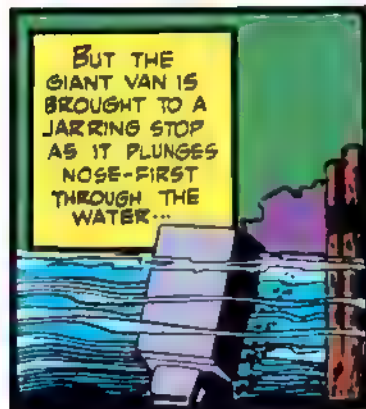
---AND THEN IS SHOT INTO RUMBLING
MOTION TOWARD THE END OF THE PIER!

HA, HA!
EVEN HOUDINI
COULDN'T ESCAPE
FROM THAT
FIX!

YEAH, THAT'S
THE END OF
BATMAN AND
ROBIN!
LET'S GO!



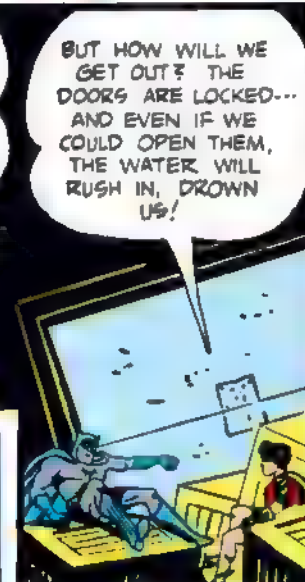
IN THIS,
INDEED,
THE TRAGIC
END OF
THE
FAMED
DYNAMIC
DUO--
A SEALED
TOMB ON
THE
BOTTOM
OF A
RIVER?



BUT THE
GIANT VAN IS
BROUGHT TO A
JARRING STOP
AS IT PLUNGES
NOSE-FIRST
THROUGH THE
WATER---



LUCKY BREAK!
WE DIDN'T GO DOWN
FAR --- THE FRONT
END OF THE VAN
MUST HAVE LANDED IN
A BED OF MUD!

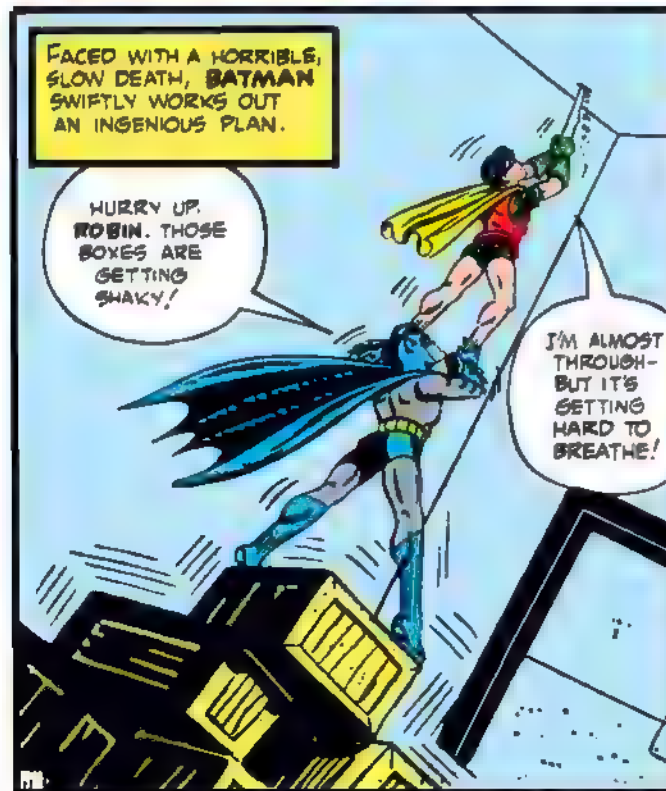


BUT HOW WILL WE
GET OUT? THE
DOORS ARE LOCKED---
AND EVEN IF WE
COULD OPEN THEM,
THE WATER WILL
RUSH IN, DROWN
US!



IF WE CAN ONLY GET UP
TO THE TOP END, WE COULD
SAW A HOLE WITH THIS
BLADE FROM MY UTILITY
BELT!

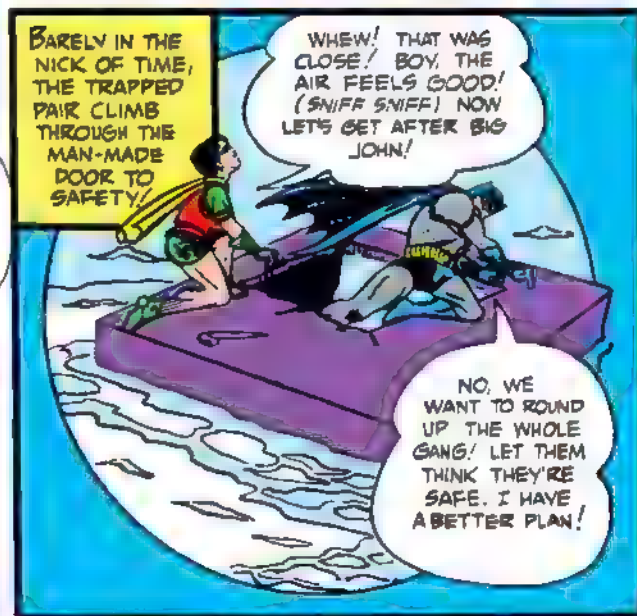
IF! BUT IT'S
TOO HIGH UP---WE
CAN'T REACH IT!
AND PRETTY
SOON WE WON'T
HAVE ANY AIR
LEFT!



FACED WITH A HORRIBLE,
SLOW DEATH, BATMAN
SWIFTLY WORKS OUT
AN INGENIOUS PLAN.

HURRY UP,
ROBIN. THOSE
BOYES ARE
GETTING
SHAKY!

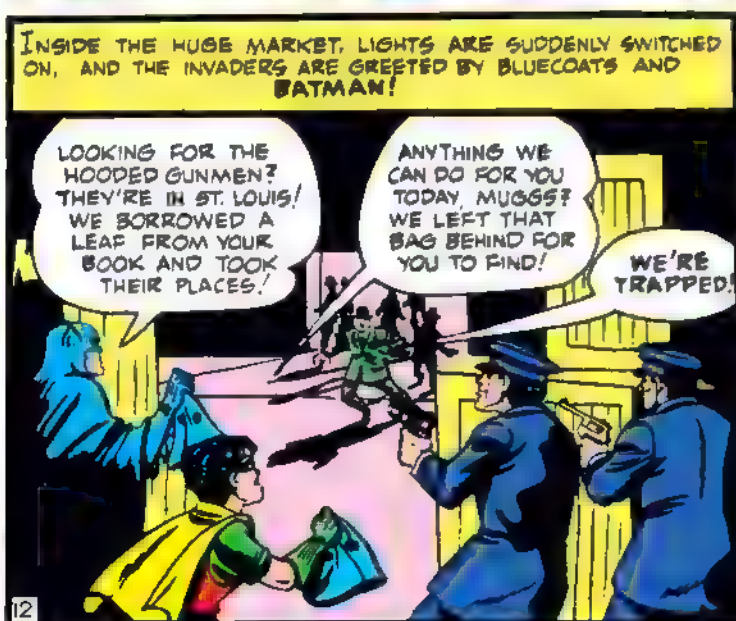
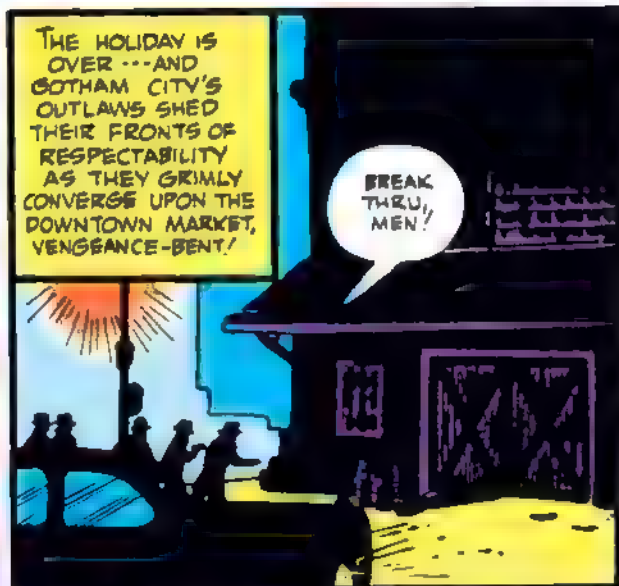
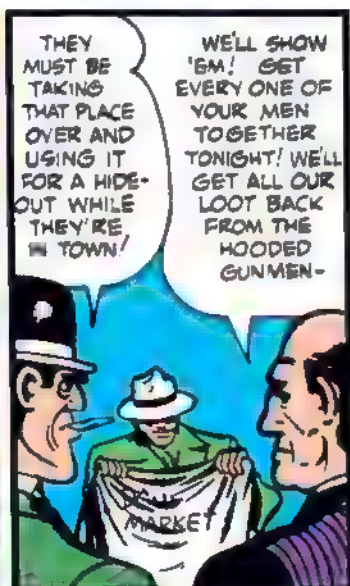
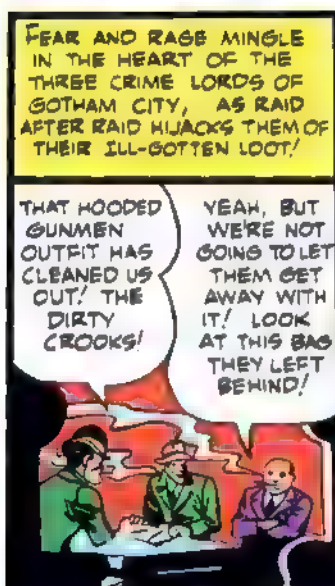
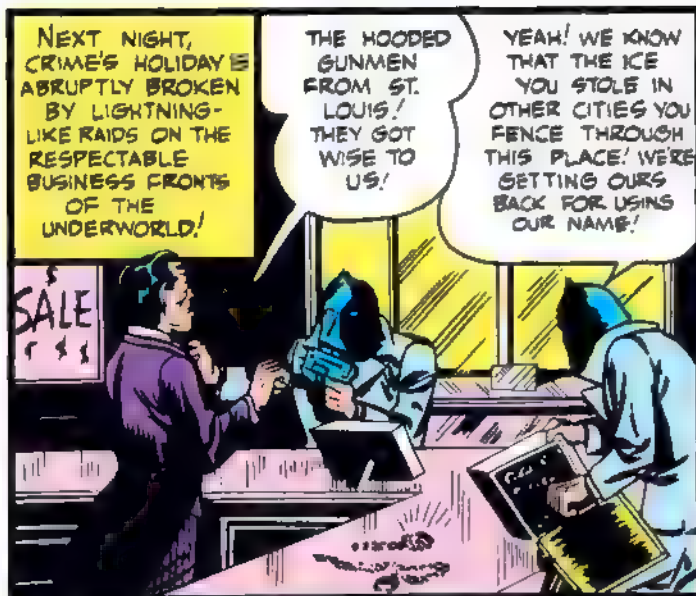
I'M ALMOST
THROUGH--
BUT IT'S
GETTING
HARD TO
BREATHE!

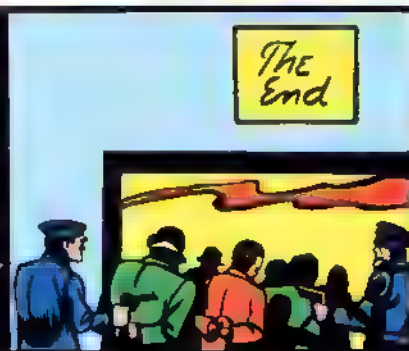
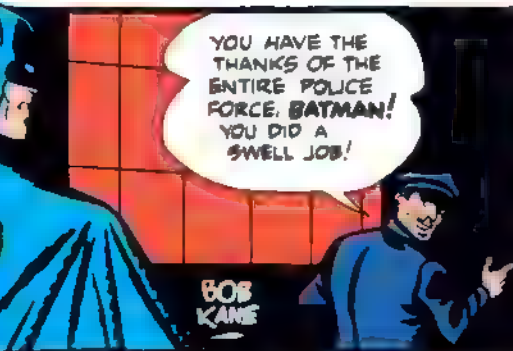
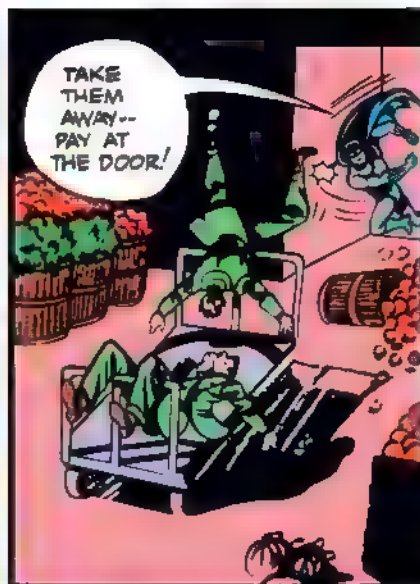


BARELY IN THE
NICK OF TIME,
THE TRAPPED
PAIR CLIMB
THROUGH THE
MAN-MADE
DOOR TO
SAFETY!

WHEW! THAT WAS
CLOSE! BOY, THE
AIR FEELS GOOD!
(SNIFF SNIFF) NOW
LET'S GET AFTER BIG
JOHN!

NO, WE
WANT TO ROUND
UP THE WHOLE
GANG! LET THEM
THINK THEY'RE
SAFE. I HAVE
A BETTER PLAN!





BATMAN and ROBIN zoom thru every issue of DETECTIVE COMICS!



No.62

BATMAN vs. JOKER!

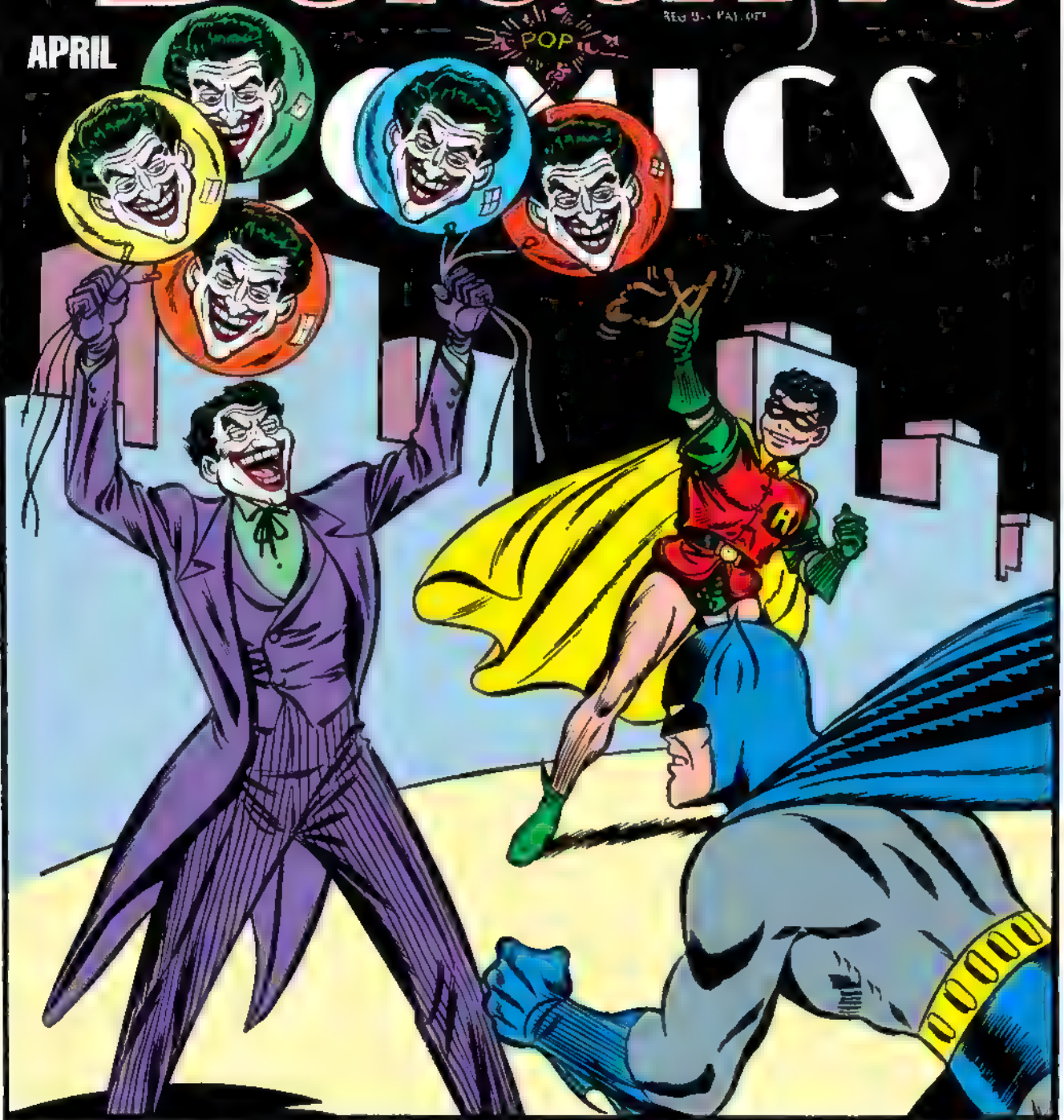


The **BATMAN**

Detective

APRIL

POP
COMICS



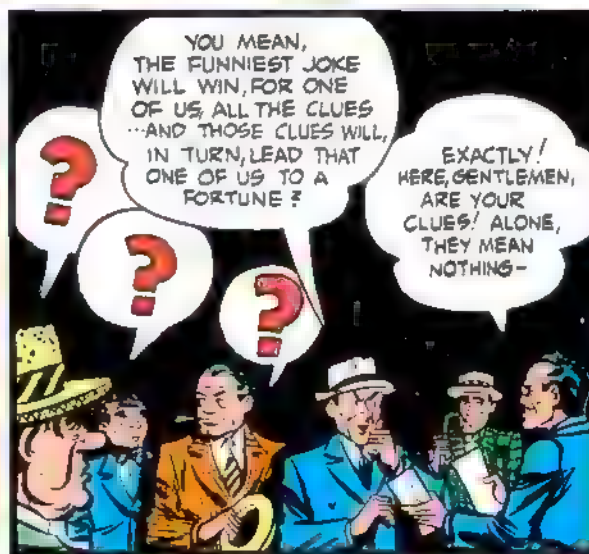
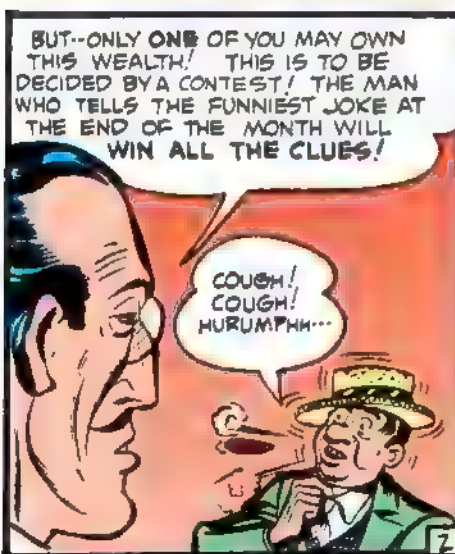
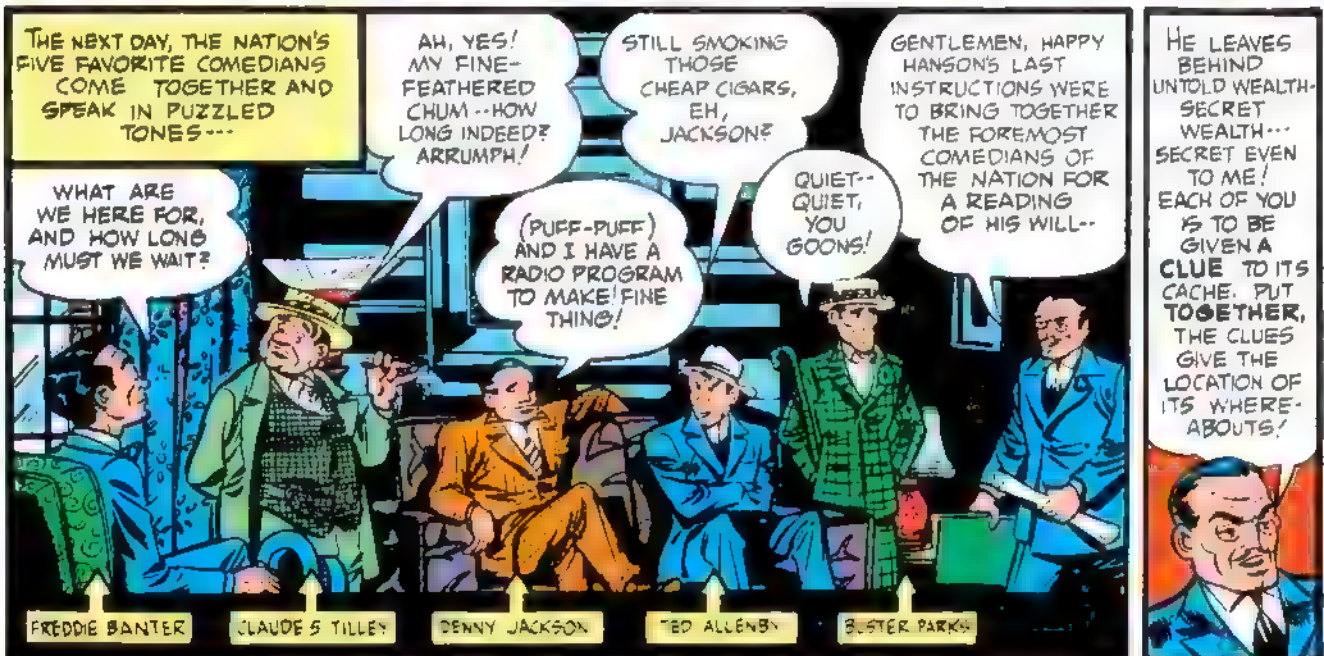
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

- THE BOY WONDER -

BUT, LIKE TWO JACK-IN-THE-BOXES, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN POP UP TO MATCH WITS WITH THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE IN THE SUPREME JEST OF ALL TIME... IN THE STORY OF -
"LAUGH, TOWN, LAUGH!"

A NATION
MOURNS AS
HAPPY HANSON,
ITS FOREMOST
COMEDIAN,
LIES
DYING!

SO IT'S MY LAST
SHOW, EH, DOC?...
A FULL HOUSE, TOO!
WHERE'S MY
LAWYER, EH?



① IN A CERTAIN JAIL, MILES AWAY, SITS A MAN- HIS FACE--A DEATH-WHITE MASK. HIS EYES--BURNING, HATE-FILLED! FOR THIS MAN IS ---THE JOKER!

WELL, THE JOKER LOOKS HARMLESS ENOUGH NOW, EH?

ALL HE DOES IS SIT AND PLAY CARDS. I'LL BET HE EVEN CHEATS HIMSELF! HA! HA!

STUPID FOOLS! THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THESE CARDS ARE GOING TO PROVIDE MY ESCAPE!



② THAT NIGHT, A NAIL FILE GRIPPED IN LEAN, STRONG FINGERS SCRAPES THE PIPS FROM THE CARDS---



GOOD! I HAVE ENOUGH CELLULOSE FIBRE NOW!

---TO TAMP THEM TIGHTLY INTO THE LOOSENED PIPE LEG FROM THE PRISON BED!



③ STILL LATER, THE HANDS PLUG UP THE CELL DOOR KEYHOLE WITH DIRT AND DUST.



IN THE MORNING--

OUT FOR YOUR PRISON HAIRCUT, JOKER! HMM--SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS KEYHOLE! WE'LL HAVE TO USE AN ACETYLENE TORCH!



④ AN ACETYLENE TORCH PLAYS ITS TERRIBLE HEAT ON THE SIDE OF THE DOOR-- BUT, UNSEEN, FASTENED TO THE OTHER SIDE---

FOOLS! THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT CELLULOSE, WHEN HEATED, FORMS NITRO-CELLULOSE-- AN EXPLOSIVE!



WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A SECOND, JOKER!



⑤ AND SO-- AN EAR-DEAFENING DETONATION!



⑥ JUST A HARMLESS MAN PLAYING CARDS! HA! HA!

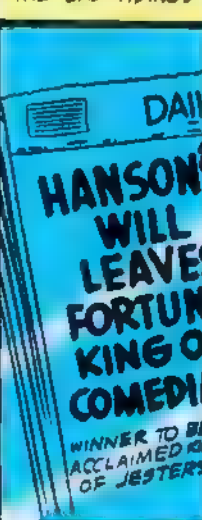


SOON, ELECTRIFYING NEWS IS FLASHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY--



DICK, I SEE PLENTY OF TROUBLE AHEAD!

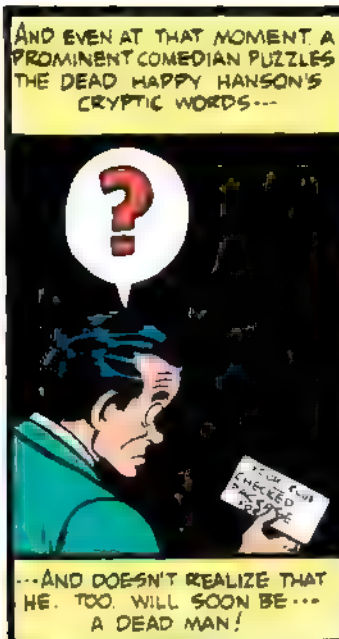
BUT OTHER NEWS COMPETES WITH THE BAD TIDINGS--



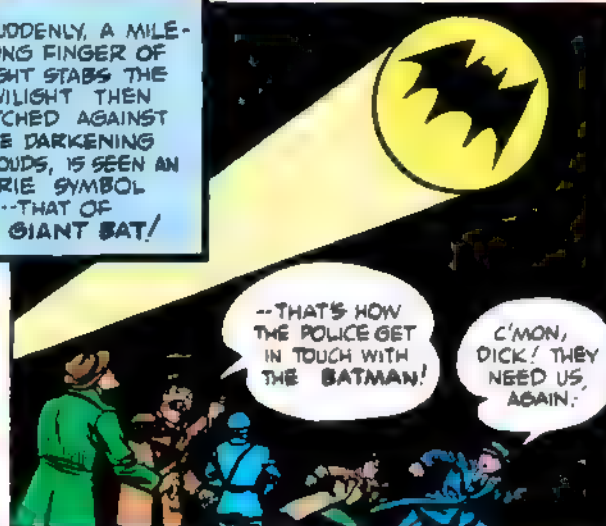
AND SOON, THE MAN WHO MADE THE FIRST NEWS READS THE LATER NEWS!



"KING OF JESTERS" NOW DARE THEY? I--I AM THE KING OF ALL JESTERS--I--- THE JOKER, HIMSELF!

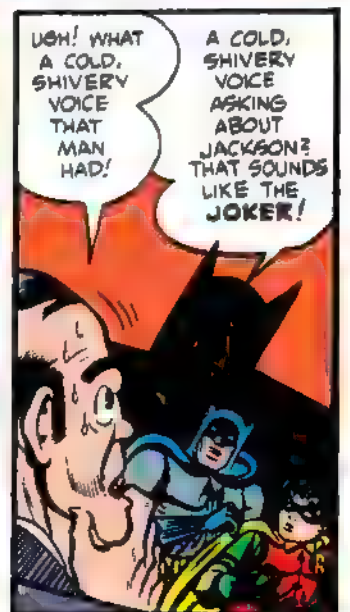
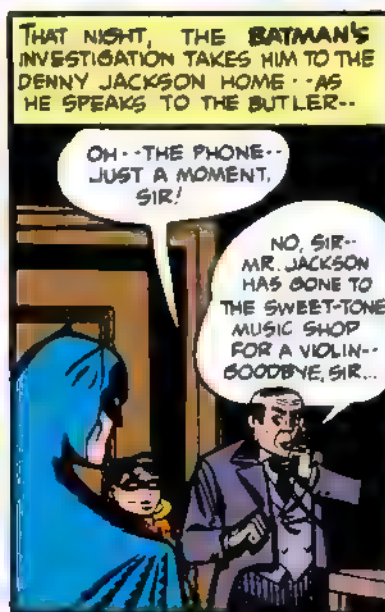
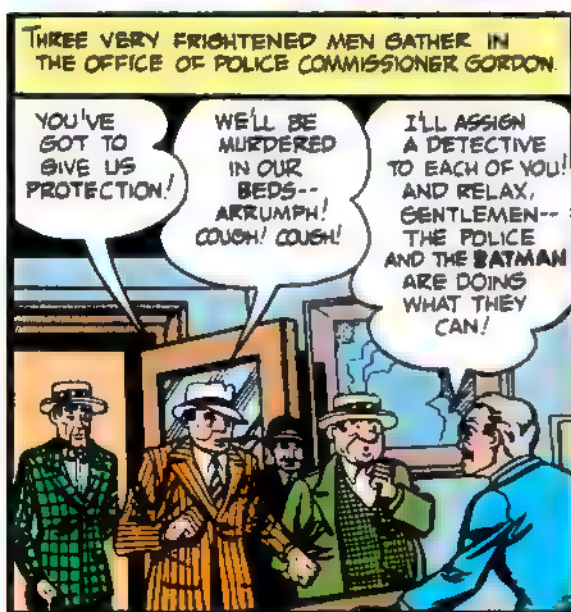
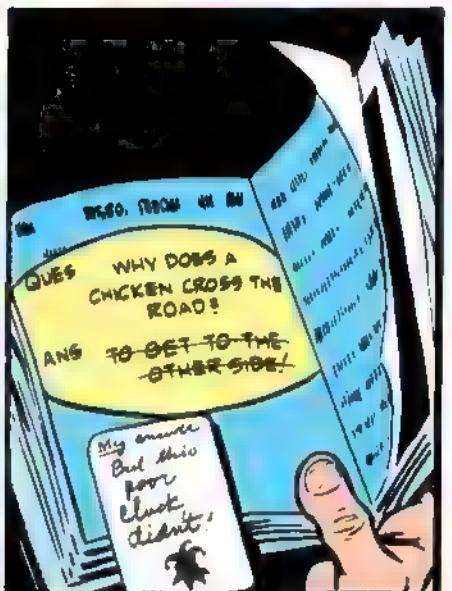
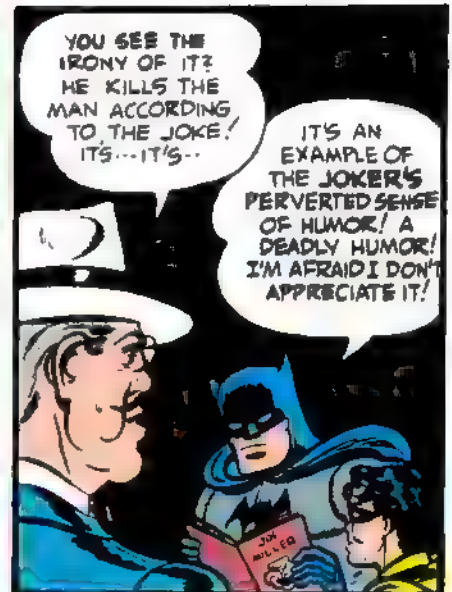
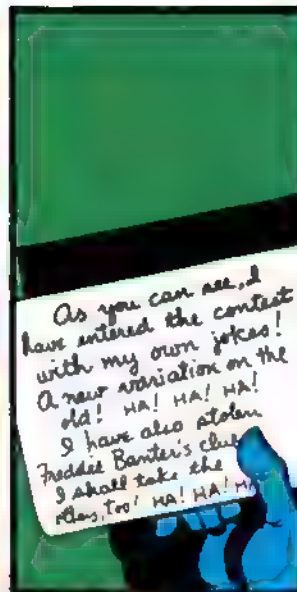
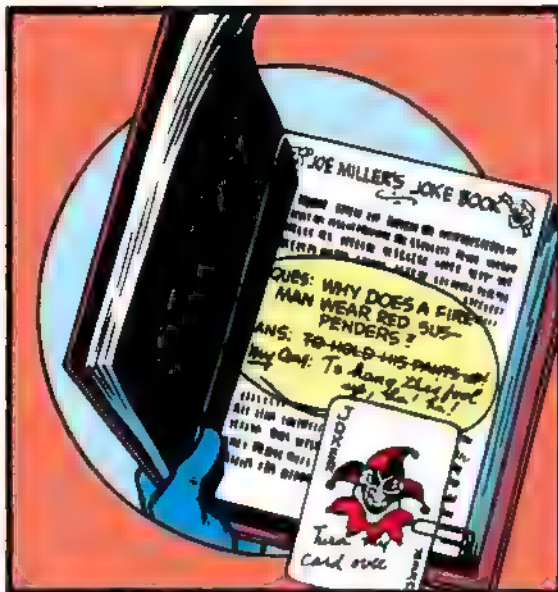


SUDDENLY, A MILE-LONG FINGER OF LIGHT STABS THE TWILIGHT THEN ETCHED AGAINST THE DARKENING CLOUDS, IS SEEN AN EERIE SYMBOL ---THAT OF A GIANT BAT!



MINUTES LATER, IN THE BRUCE WAYNE HOME, MAN AND BOY WHIP OFF STREET CLOTHES AND DON STRANGE GARS...



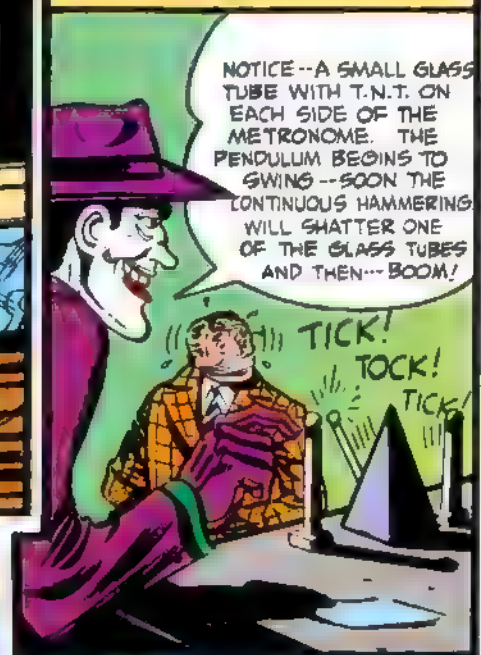


THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE AND HIS HIRED HENCHMEN STRIKE WITHOUT WARNING!



HOLD THAT POSE, GENTLEMEN!

A MOMENT LATER, THE BRAZEN BUFFOON SETS UP A QUEER APPARATUS!



NOTICE--A SMALL GLASS TUBE WITH T.N.T. ON EACH SIDE OF THE METRONOME. THE PENDULUM BEGINS TO SWING--SOON THE CONTINUOUS HAMMERING WILL SHATTER ONE OF THE GLASS TUBES AND THEN---BOOM!

TICK!
TOCK!
TICK!

BUT...HELP ARRIVES IN THE PERSONS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!



THAT'S A NICE STUNT, JOKER... BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK IT WILL COME OFF!

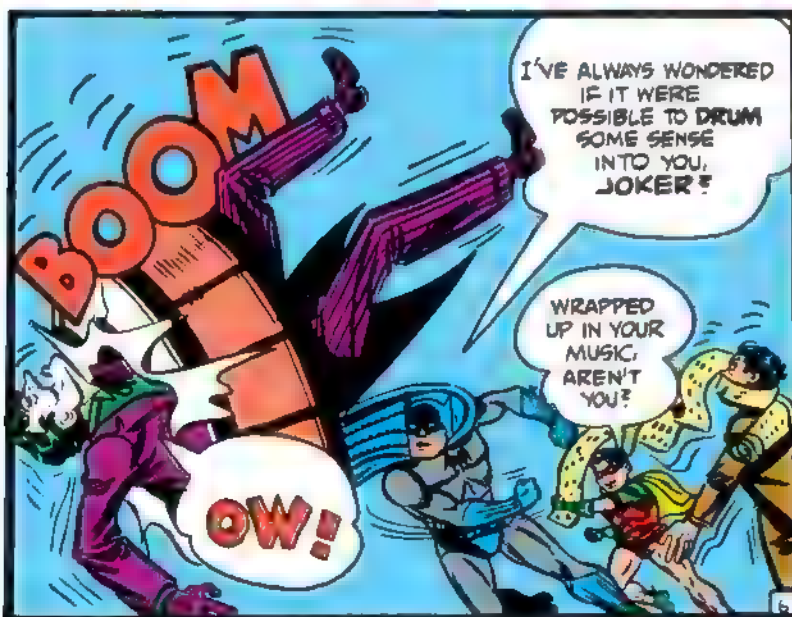
YOU!

THEY'LL DELAY ME! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE THE EXPLOSION!



FASTER REWARD I MAKE A HIT WITH YOU

HERE--- TRY THESE ON YOUR OLD VICTROLA!



I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO DRUM SOME SENSE INTO YOU, JOKER!

WRAPPED UP IN YOUR MUSIC, AREN'T YOU?

OW!

MEANWHILE, TERRIBLE AS A MARCH OF DOOM, THE MEASURED BEAT OF THE METRONOME TICKS ON RELENTLESSLY--

LET ME GO! THIS PLACE WILL BLOW UP ANY SECOND, AND WE'LL GO WITH IT!

WHY, JOKER-- YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORRIED! BUT THERE'S REALLY NO NEED!

TICK!
TOCK!
TICK!

EACH WITHOUT THE OTHERS KNOWLEDGE, TWO FIGURES CATAPULT FORWARD SIMULTANEOUSLY AT THE FATAL METRONOME--

YOU, TOO?

SO IT SEEMS!

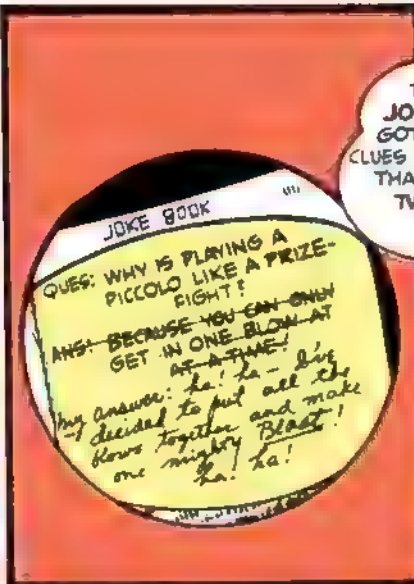


TWO ANXIOUS HANDS HALT THE RELENTLESS PENDULUM AS IT SWINGS FORWARD LIKE THE REAPER'S SCYTHE!



WE MADE IT!

AND WHILE WE DID, THE JOKER'S ESCAPED AND HE'S TAKEN JACKSON'S CLUE! WONDER WHAT HIS JOKE WAS THIS TIME?



JOKE BOOK
Q: WHY IS PLAYING A PICCOLO LIKE A PRIZE-FIGHT?
A: BECAUSE YOU CAN ONLY GET IN ONE BLOW-AT-A-TIME!
My answer: ha! ha! - I've decided to put all the blows together and make one mighty Blast! ha! ha!

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

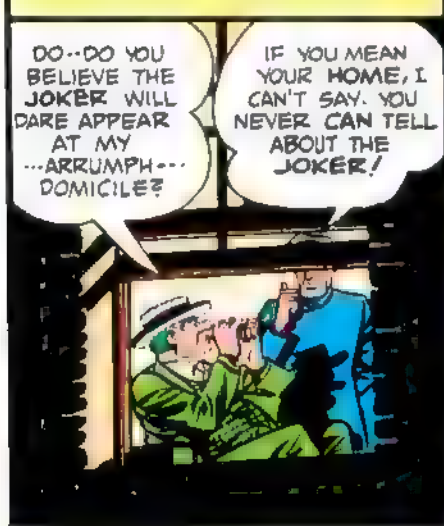


THE JOKER'S GOT THREE CLUES ALREADY! THAT LEAVES TWO TO GO!

I SUGGEST THAT YOU HAVE YOUR POLICE GUARD CLAUDE TILLEY WHILE ROBIN AND MYSELF GUARD BUSTER PARKS!

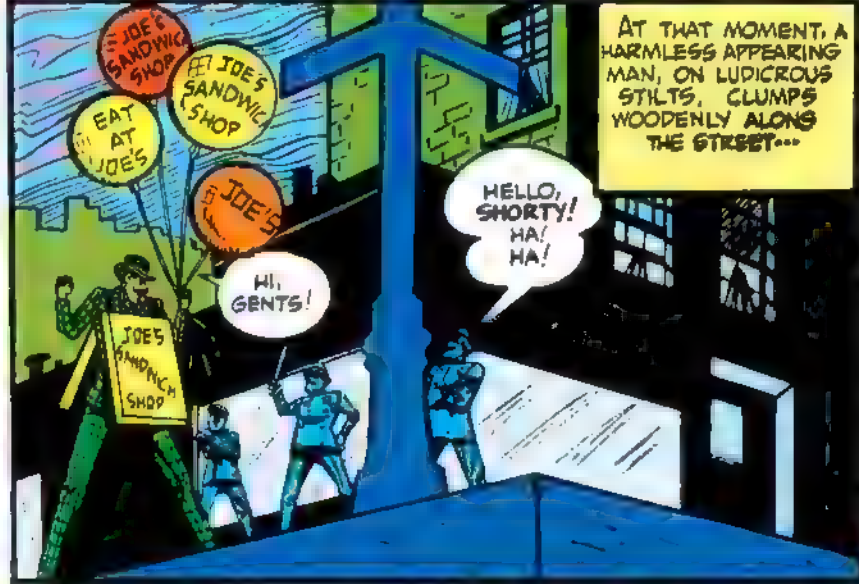
SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE! IT SHOULD STOP THE JOKER... WE HOPE!

THE NEXT DAY -- AT THE FIRST-FLOOR HOME OF CLAUDE S. TILLEY --



DO--DO YOU BELIEVE THE JOKER WILL DARE APPEAR AT MY --ARRUMPH-- DOMICILE?

IF YOU MEAN YOUR HOME, I CAN'T SAY. YOU NEVER CAN TELL ABOUT THE JOKER!



AT THAT MOMENT, A HARMLESS APPEARING MAN, ON LUDICROUS STILTS, CLUMPS WOODENLY ALONG THE STREET --

HELLO, SHORTY! HA! HA!

HI, GENTS!

BUT ONCE AROUND THE CORNER AND OUT OF SIGHT OF THE POLICE, HE OPENS HIS COAT -- AND WITH THE AID OF A TUBE WOUND ABOUT HIS BODY, HE BLOWS UP MORE RUBBER BALLOONS --



AS THE BALLOONS DRIFT INTO TILLEY'S ROOM, A GAS BEGINS TO SEEP OUT OF PUNCTURED CORKS IN THE BALLOON NECKS --

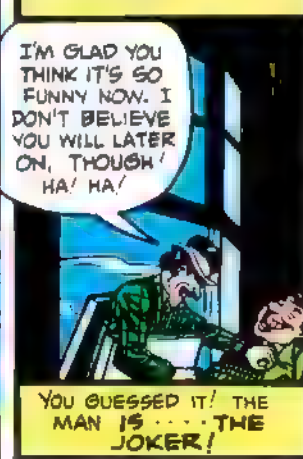


WHAT'S WRONG? HA! HA! I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING? HA! HA!

HO! HO! HO!

LAUGHING GAS!

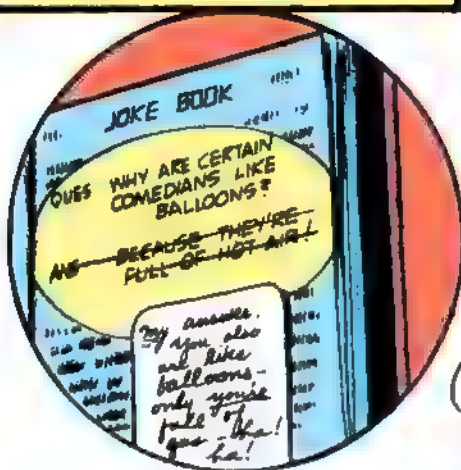
CALMLY, ALMOST LAZILY, THE MAN ON STILTS REACHES IN AND PICKS THE VALUABLE CLUE FROM THE HELPLESS COMEDIAN'S POCKET!



I'M GLAD YOU THINK IT'S SO FUNNY NOW. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU WILL LATER ON, THOUGH! HA! HA!

YOU GUESSED IT! THE MAN IS ... THE JOKER!

LATER THE RECOVERED POLICE FIND...THIS!



AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, AT THE HOME OF BUSTER PARKS, HIRELINGS OF THE JOKER ALSO USE GAS IN THE GRIM JESTER'S NEXT STEP ON HIS PROGRAM OF CRIME!

WHAT A CHANCE TO PLUG THE BATMAN!



YOU DAFFY? COPS WILL BE RUNNING ALL OVER THE JOINT NOW. RIGHT NOW OUR JOB IS TO GET PARKS AT THE 34TH STREET PIER TO THE JOKER! C'MON!

BATMAN INSTINCTIVELY FIGHTS OFF THE RAPIDLY DESCENDING MENTAL FOG AND LURCHES BLINDLY TO A WINDOW!



MOMENTS LATER, A REVIVED DUO DARTS TOWARD THE WAITING BATMOBILE!



SOME TIME LATER...AT A DISTANCE AWAY!...



HOW TO EFFECT A STEALTHY, SUPER-SILENT RESCUE? THE ANSWER-- FROM THE BATMOBILE COME STRANGE SHOES

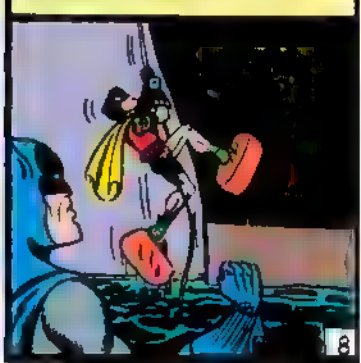


AIR-INFLATED RAFT-SHOES ARE READY FOR ACTION!

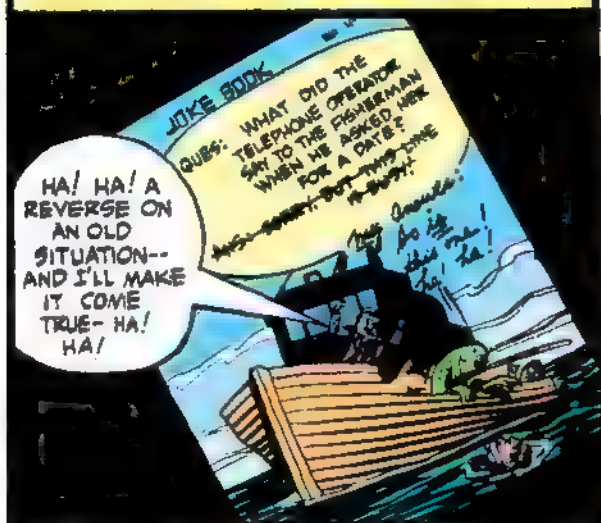
SILENT AS THE MOON'S PATH UPON THE WATERS, THE SHADOWY PAIR SLINK ACROSS THE WAVES ON FLOATING FEET!



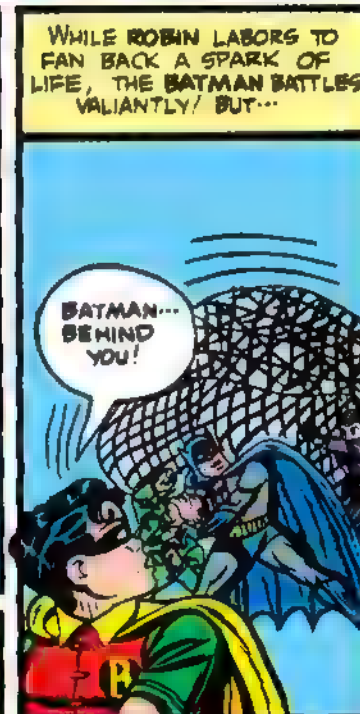
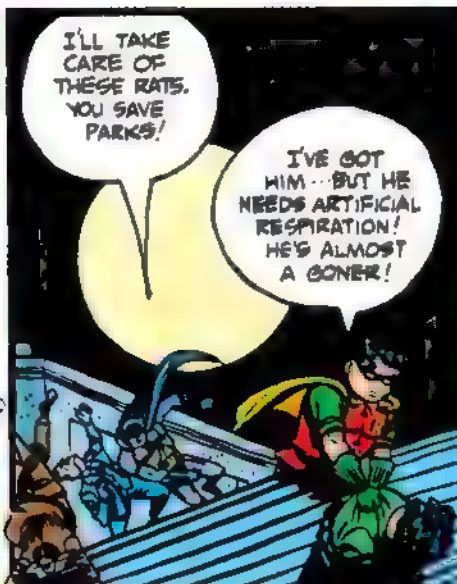
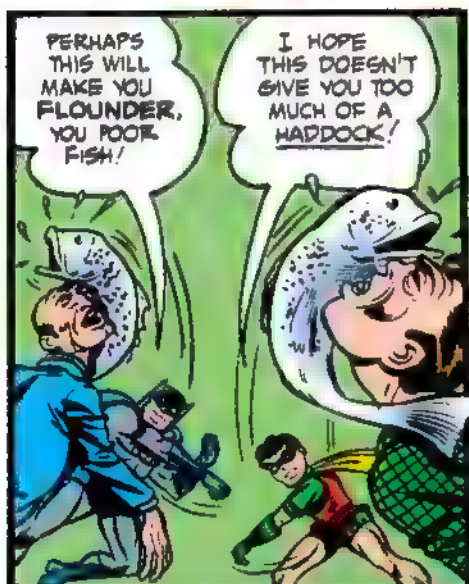
THE NOISELESS SEA TRAIL BRINGS THEM RIGHT BENEATH THE BOWS OF THE JOKER'S FISHING SMACK!



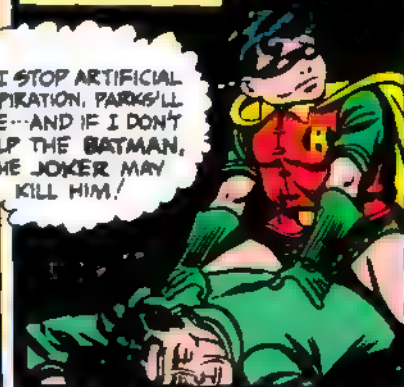
THE JOKER'S GRISLY HUMOR!



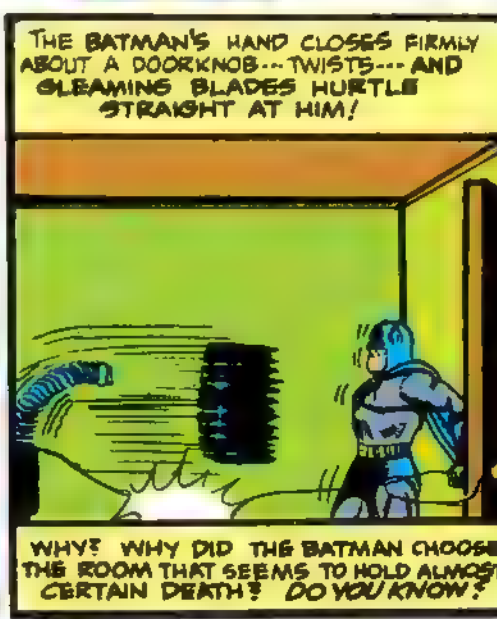
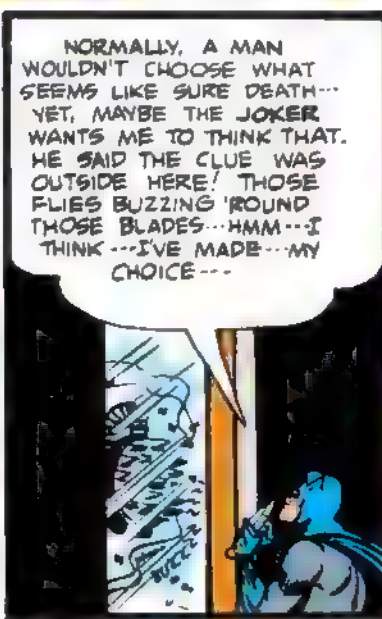
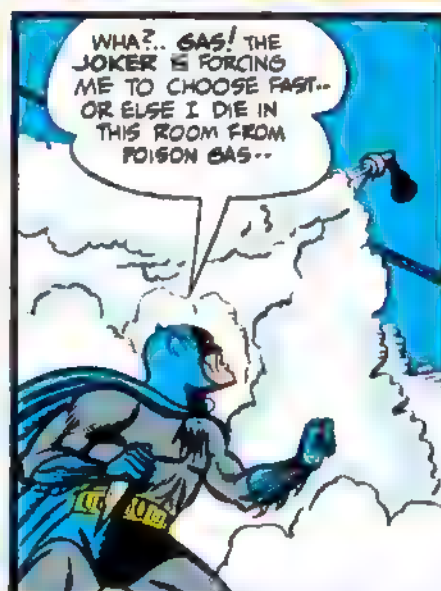
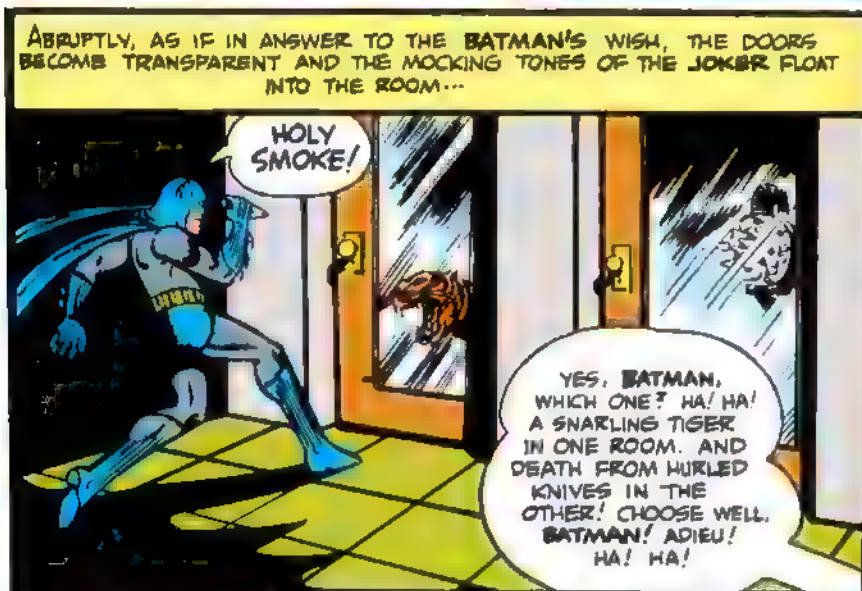
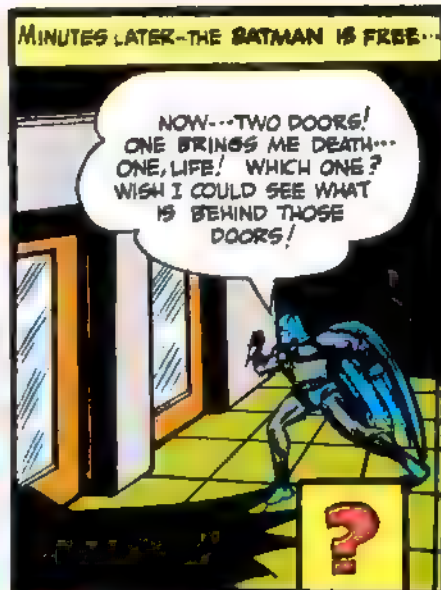
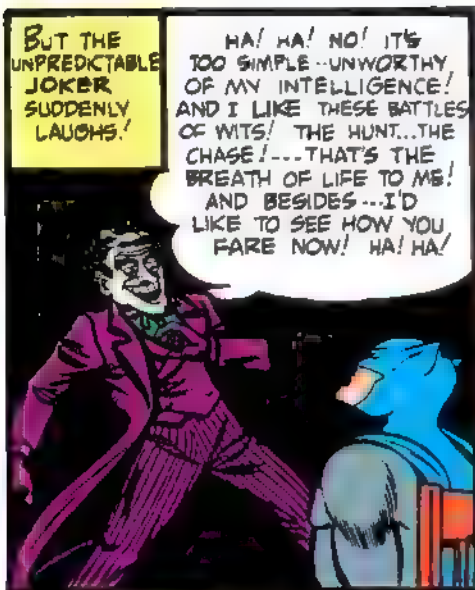
TWO PURPOSEFUL AVENGERS CHARGE FORWARD, LUNGING HEADLONG AT THE KILLER CLOWN!

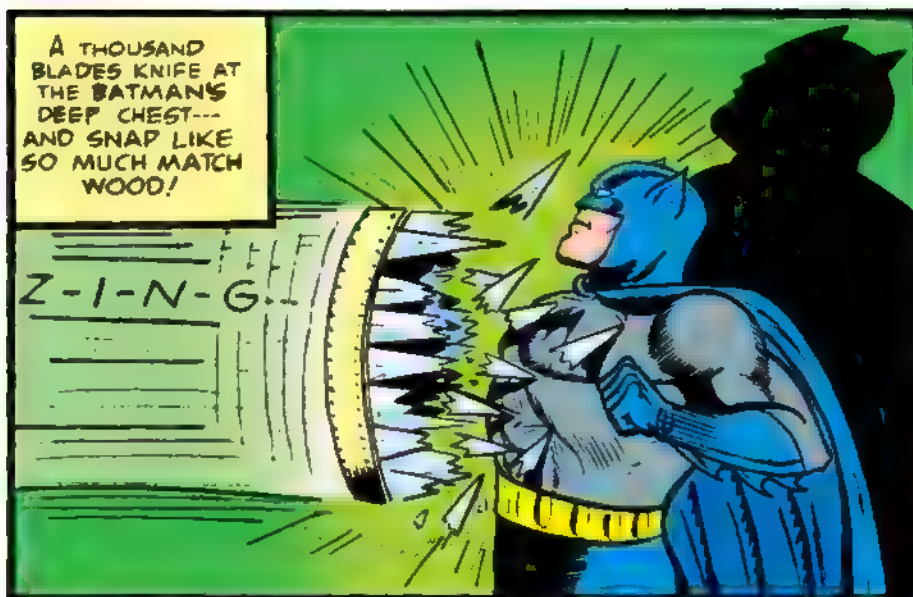


INSTINCTIVELY, ROBIN STARTS TO GIVE HIS FRIEND AID, BUT SUDDENLY STOPS SHORT AS HE REALIZES---



WHAT A MAN-SIZED PROBLEM FOR A BOY-- OR ANY MAN! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THE SAME PREDICAMENT?





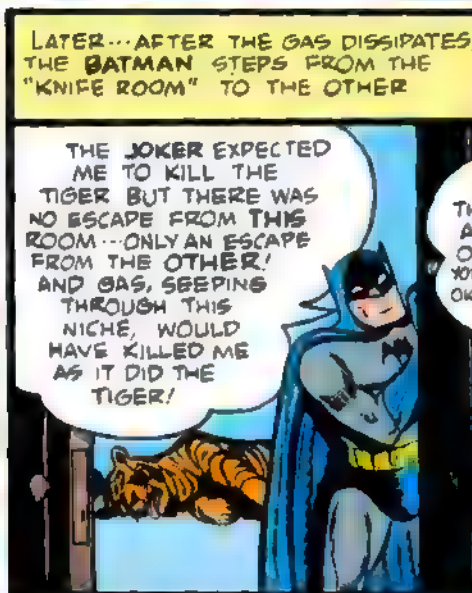
A THOUSAND
BLADES KNIFE AT
THE BATMAN'S
DEEP CHEST---
AND SNAP LIKE
SO MUCH MATCH
WOOD!



JUST AS I
SUSPECTED, THE
BLADES WERE MADE OF
CANDY--LIKE THE
KNIVES VILLAINS
USE IN THE
MOVIES!



I WAS
SUSPICIOUS
WHEN I SAW
THOSE FLIES
BUZZING
AROUND
THE BLADES!
FLIES ARE
ATTRACTED
TO SWEETS!



LATER...AFTER THE GAS DISSIPATES,
THE BATMAN STEPS FROM THE
"KNIFE ROOM" TO THE OTHER

THE JOKER EXPECTED
ME TO KILL THE
TIGER BUT THERE WAS
NO ESCAPE FROM THIS
ROOM...ONLY AN ESCAPE
FROM THE OTHER!
AND GAS, SEEPING
THROUGH THIS
NICHE, WOULD
HAVE KILLED ME
AS IT DID THE
TIGER!



ONLY THE BATMAN'S
NIMBLE BRAIN HAS ENABLED
HIM TO THWART THE JOKER'S
DIABOLICAL SCHEME---HE
RE JOINS ROBIN LATER...

WOW!
THAT WAS
A CLOSE
ONE FOR
YOU. PARKS IS
OKAY! NOW
WHAT?

I WENT UP INTO THAT
ROOM AGAIN AND
LOOKED OVER THE CLUES
HE LEFT ON THE TABLE.
SO, HERE WE GO...TO
THE HOTEL
GRAND--CMON!



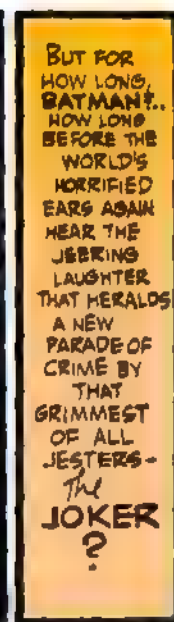
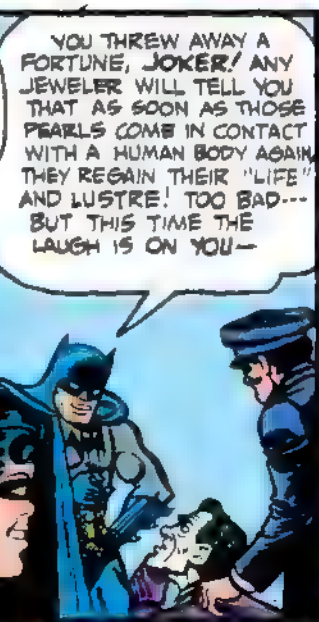
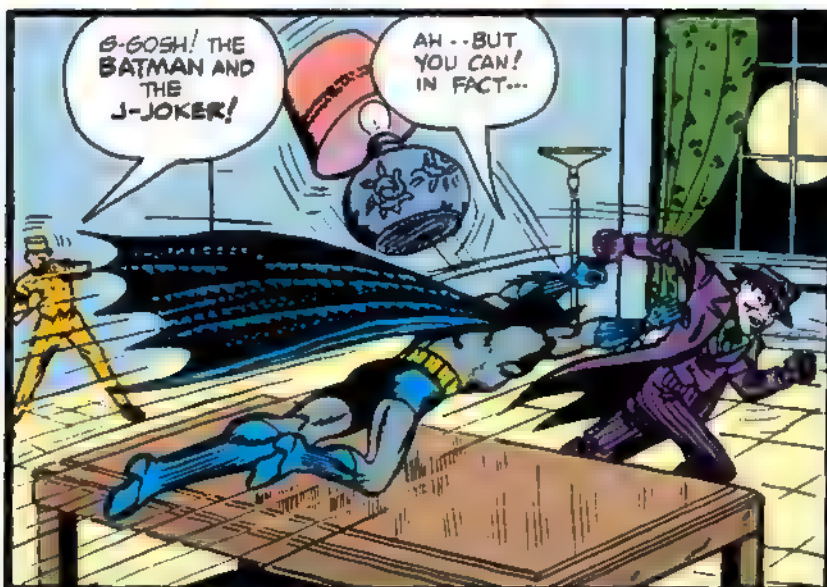
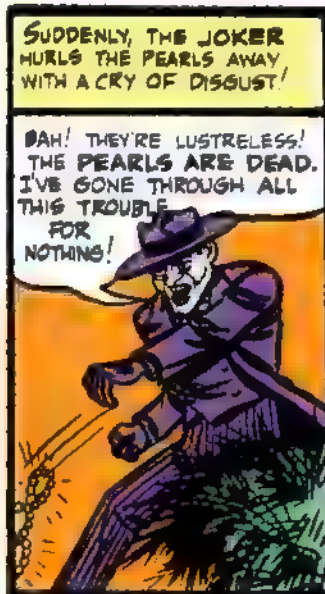
AT THE GRAND HOTEL

I BELIEVE I'LL
TAKE THAT
PACKAGE YOU
HAVE CHECKED
HERE FOR A "MR.
WINNER" HA!
HA!



THE MYSTERY PACKAGE IS OPENED!

PEARLS...GIANT
PEARLS WORTH
A KING'S
RANSOM!



No. 10

APRIL
MAY

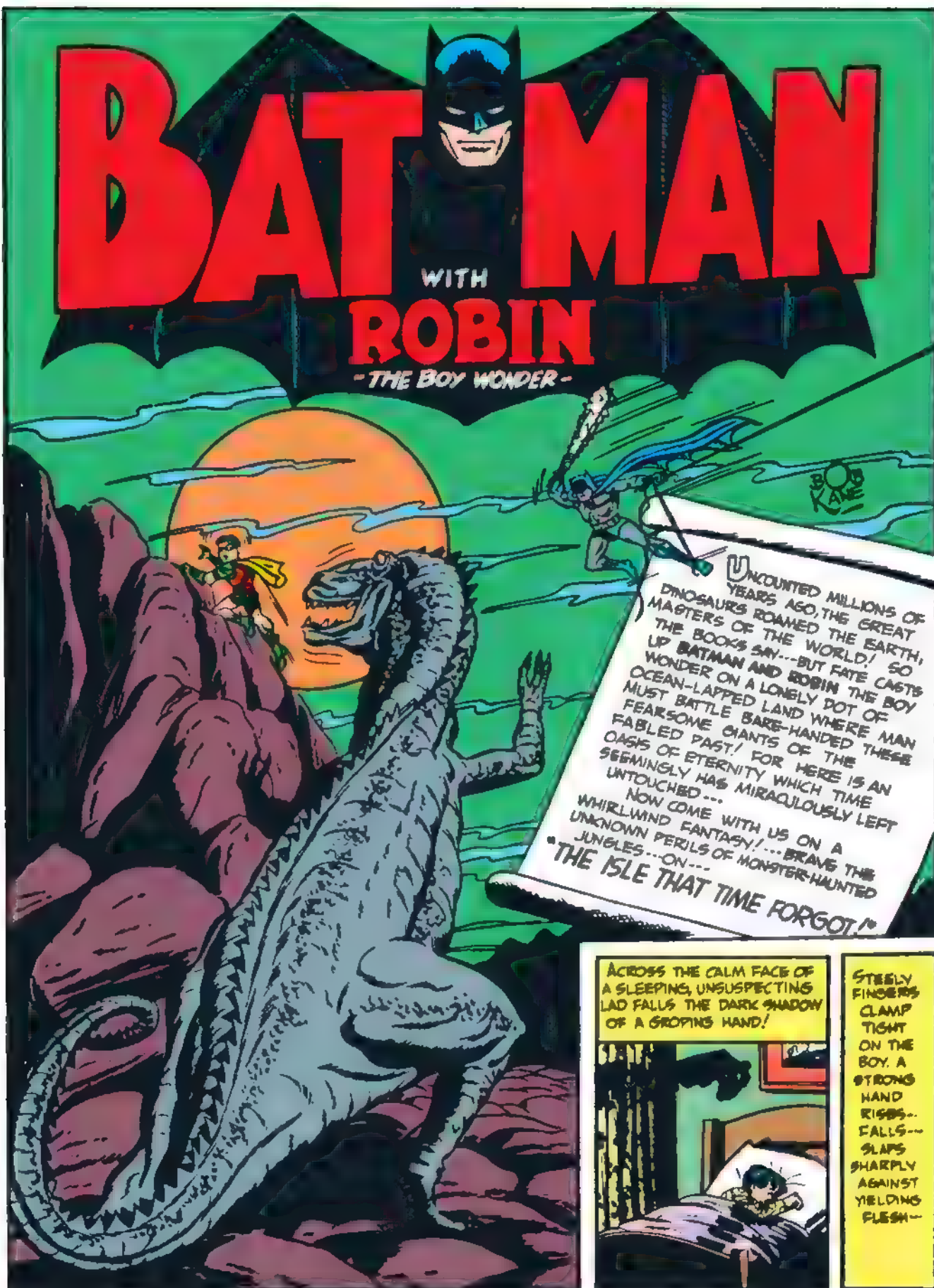


BAT MAN



BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

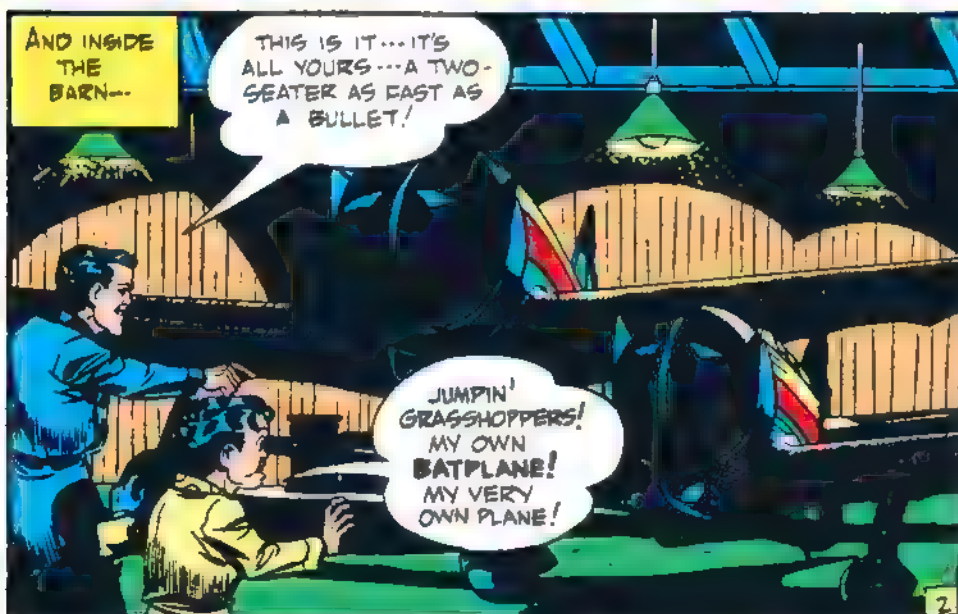
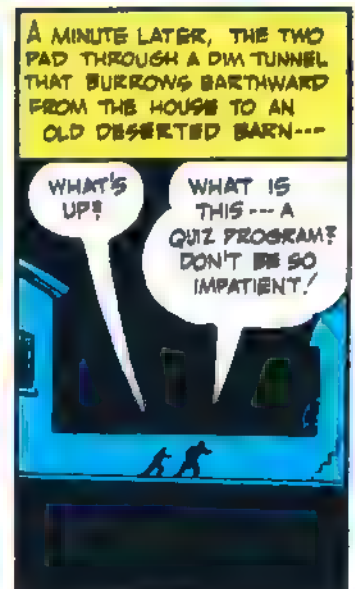
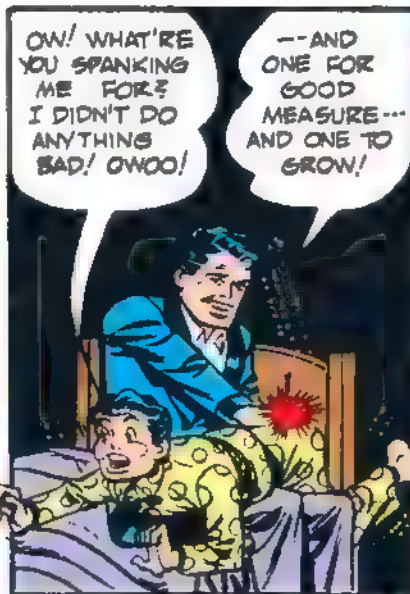


UNCOUNTED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE GREAT MASTERS OF THE WORLD! SO UP BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER ON A LONELY DOT OF OCEAN-LAPPED LAND WHERE MAN MUST BATTLE BARE-HANDED THESE FEARSOME GIANTS OF THE FABLED PAST! FOR HERE IS AN OASIS OF ETERNITY WHICH TIME SEEMINGLY HAS MIRACULOUSLY LEFT UNTOUCHED... NOW COME WITH US ON A WHIRLWIND FANTASY!... BRAVE THE UNKNOWN PERILS OF MONSTER-HAUNTED JUNGLES... ON... **"THE ISLE THAT TIME FORGOT!"**

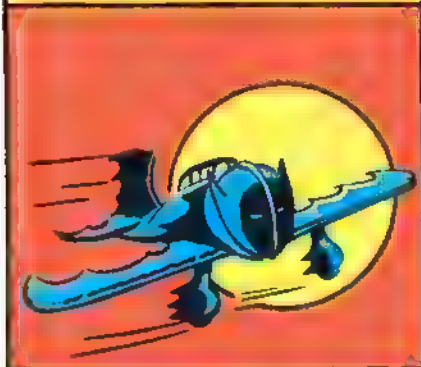
ACROSS THE CALM FACE OF A SLEEPING, UNSUSPECTING LAD FALLS THE DARK SHADOW OF A GROPING HAND!



STEELY FINGERS CLAMP TIGHT ON THE BOY. A STRONG HAND RISES... FALLS... SLAPS SHARPLY AGAINST YIELDING FLESH...



THAT NIGHT...THE SMALL PLANE
LIFTS ITS WINGS, EAGER AS A
SMALL BIRD FOR ITS FIRST FLIGHT



AND AT ITS CONTROLS ARE NOT JUST
PLAIN BRUCE WAYNE AND
DICK GRAYSON--

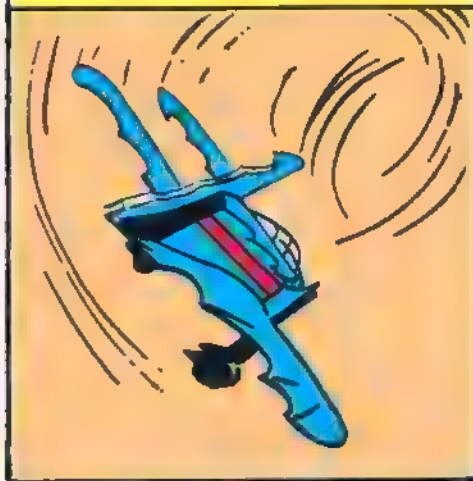
...FOR COLORFUL GARB HAS
TRANSFORMED THEM INTO THAT
CRIME-BUSTING TEAM-- BATMAN
AND ROBIN!

HOW DOES SHE
HANDLE, ROBIN? (KID
ISN'T EVEN LISTENING!)

BOYBOY!
MY OWN
BATPLANE!
GOLLY!



IN THE NEXT HOUR, ROBIN SUBJECTS
THE PLANE TO A GRUELING TEST:
POWER DIVES, TURNS, SPINS...



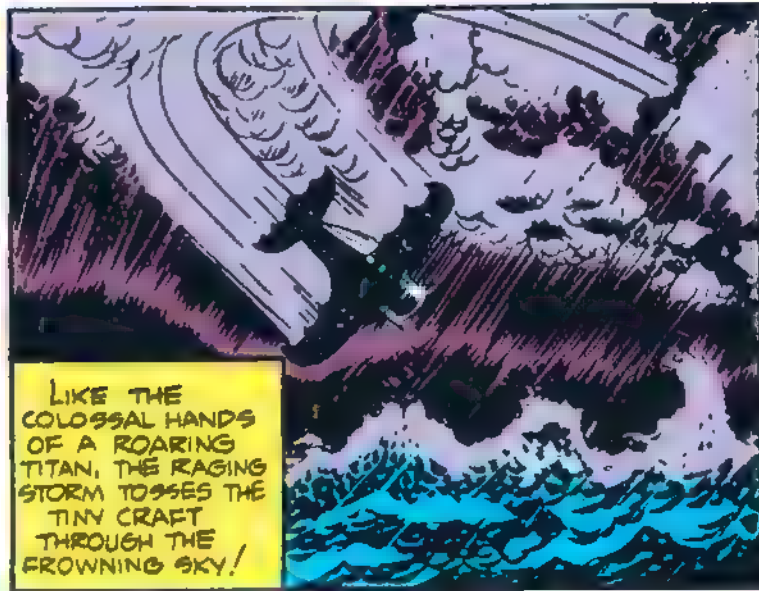
AND THEN---WITHOUT WARNING---

HUH? IT'S
SHAKING
LIKE A
LEAF IN A
WIND!

WIND IS RIGHT! AND
WHAT A WIND! A
HURRICANE HAS JUST
BROKEN LOOSE--AND
WE'RE RIGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF IT!



LIKE THE
COLOSSAL HANDS
OF A ROARING
TITAN, THE RAGING
STORM TOSSES THE
TINY CRAFT
THROUGH THE
FROWNING SKY!



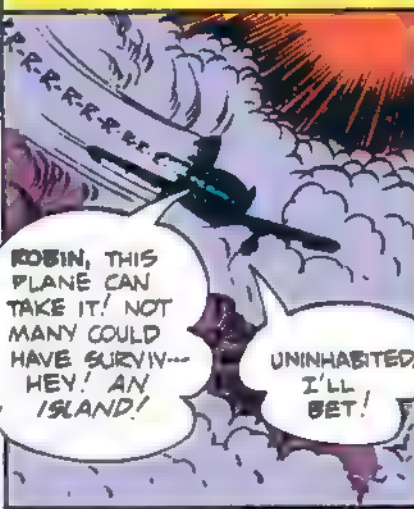
ALL NIGHT THEY BRAVE THE INVISIBLE
TERROR OF THE BUFFETING WIND!

WE'RE
CAUGHT!
NO TELLING
WHERE THIS
STORM WILL
BLOW US!

LUCKY WE
FILLED THE
RESERVE TANKS
BEFORE WE
TOOK OFF
ON THIS
JOYRIDE!



AND AT LAST THE SCARLET
SUNRISE COMES--BREAKING
THE STORM!

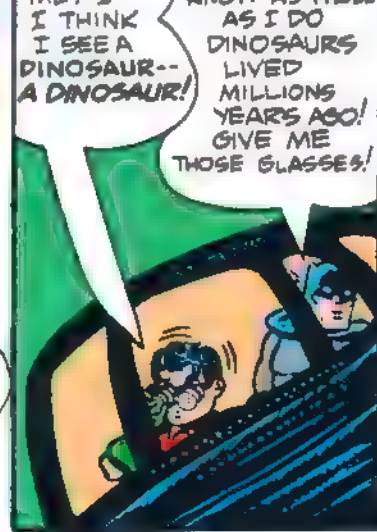


ROBIN, THIS
PLANE CAN
TAKE IT! NOT
MANY COULD
HAVE SURVIV--
HEY! AN
ISLAND!

UNINHABITED,
I'LL
BET!

BATMAN,
PINCH
ME! I---
I THINK
I SEE A
DINOSAUR--
A DINOSAUR!

DON'T GET
GAY! YOU
KNOW AS WELL
AS I DO
DINOSAURS
LIVED
MILLIONS
YEARS AGO!
GIVE ME
THOSE GLASSES!



AS THE BATMAN'S EYES
SWEEP THE ISLAND,
HE SEES---



I DIDN'T SEE ANY
DINOSAUR, BUT
I CERTAINLY SAW
SOME PEOPLE IN
TROUBLE! LOOKS
LIKE WE'VE FOUND
OURSELVES A CASE!

CIRCLING THE STRANGE ISLAND
WITH MOTOR SILENCED, THE
PLANE SNOOPS TOWARD A CLEAR
FIELD OUT OF SIGHT OF THE
MYSTERIOUS FIGURES ON THE BEACH!

I'M TELLING YOU
I SAW A DINOSAUR!
...OOPS!

A DINOSAUR
IN THE TWENTIETH
CENTURY! SEE
WHAT YOU GET
FOR TELLING
LIES!

BUT AS THEY PICK THEIR WAY
THROUGH THE DARK FOLIAGE,
HIDDEN MEN SURVEY THEIR PROGRESS.

I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED
THAT PLANE! BATMAN AND ROBIN,
EH? HMM! I HAVE AN IDEA THAT
THIS TIME THEIR CURIOSITY
WILL GIVE THEM MORE THAN
THEY BARGAINED FOR!
HMM!

THIS IS
TOUGH GOING,
HOW MUCH
MORE?

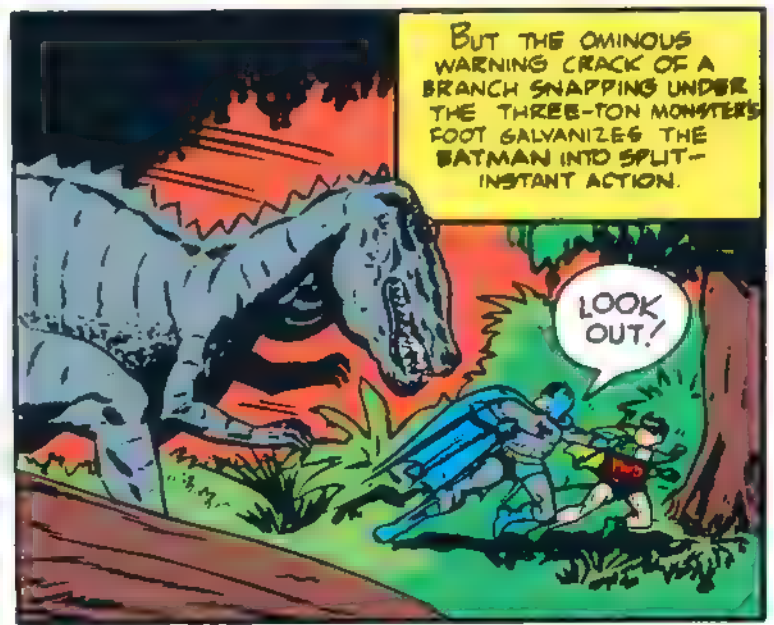
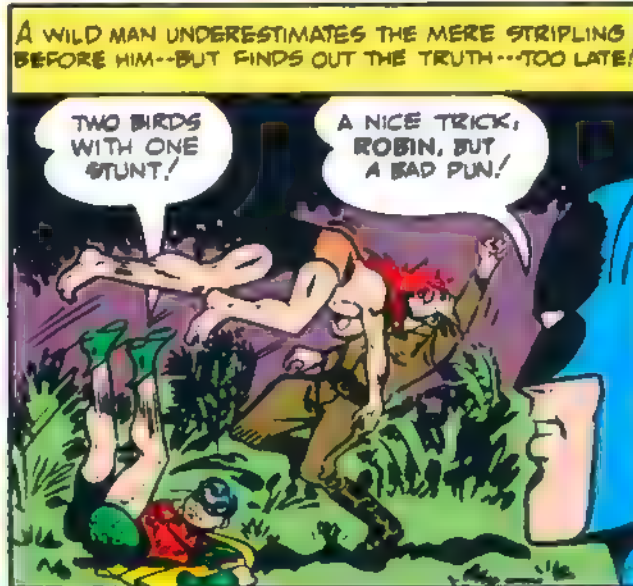
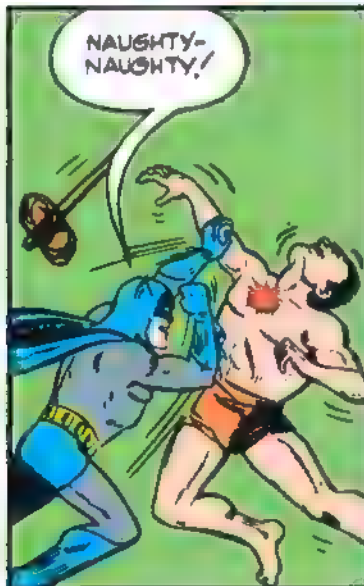
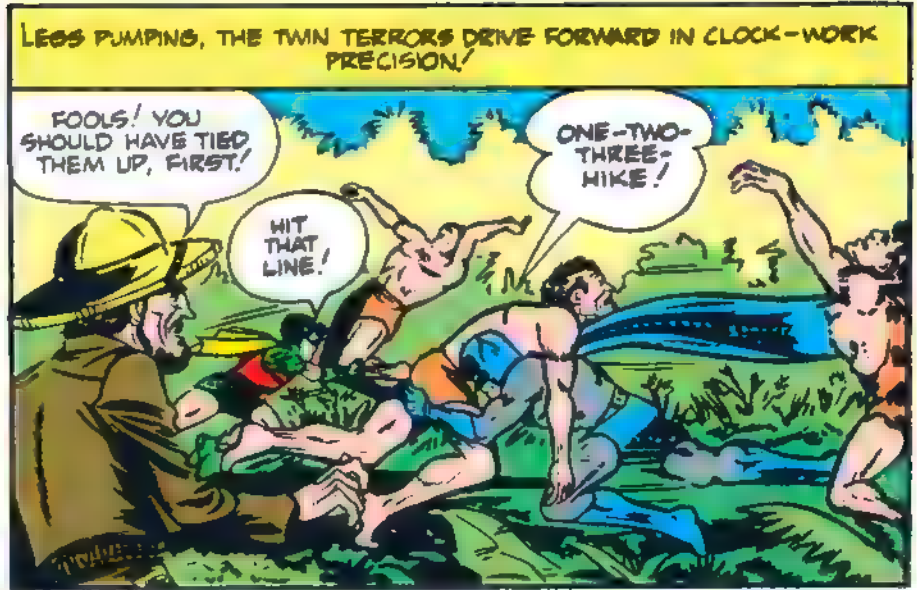
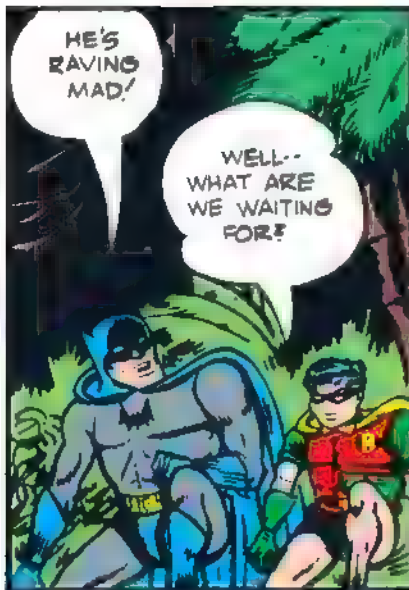
JUST A LITTLE
WAY YET,
I THINK!

THAT
DINOSAUR
WAS RE...
UH!

MANY, MANY MINUTES LATER, BATMAN AND ROBIN SHAKE
THE FOG FROM THEIR ACHING HEADS---AND SEE---

DON'T TRY TO TELL ME YOU
WERE SHIPWRECKED HERE! BAH!
YOU ALL WANT TO KILL ME---
TAKE MY ISLAND AWAY FROM
ME! YOU WANT MY GLORY!
BUT YOU WON'T HAVE IT!

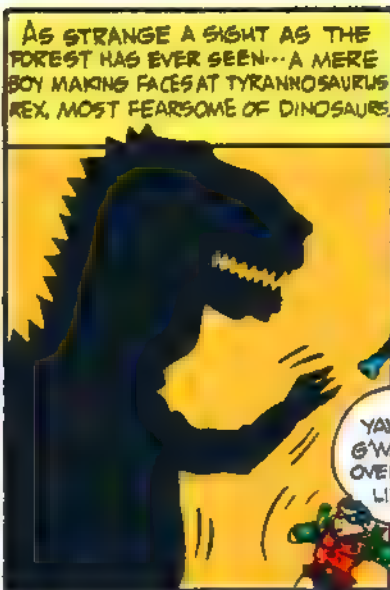
I---PROFESSOR
MOLOFF---
I DISCOVERED
IT! WHEN I
HAVE FINISHED
MY BOOK, I
SHALL RETURN
TO CIVILIZATION
FOR FAME AND
RICHES. I SHALL
HAVE MADE THE
SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY
OF ALL TIME!
I WILL BE
ACCLAIMED!





WOW! THE DINOSAUR! I WAS RIGHT!

I'LL MAKE MY APOLOGIES LATER! MEANWHILE, YOU DISTRACT JUMBO'S ATTENTION!



AS STRANGE A SIGHT AS THE FOREST HAS EVER SEEN... A MERE BOY MAKING FACES AT TYRANNOSAURUS REX, MOST FEARSOME OF DINOSAURS



STRONG AS STEEL CABLE, A NOOSED, SILKEN ROPE DROPS OVER THE SCALY NECK!

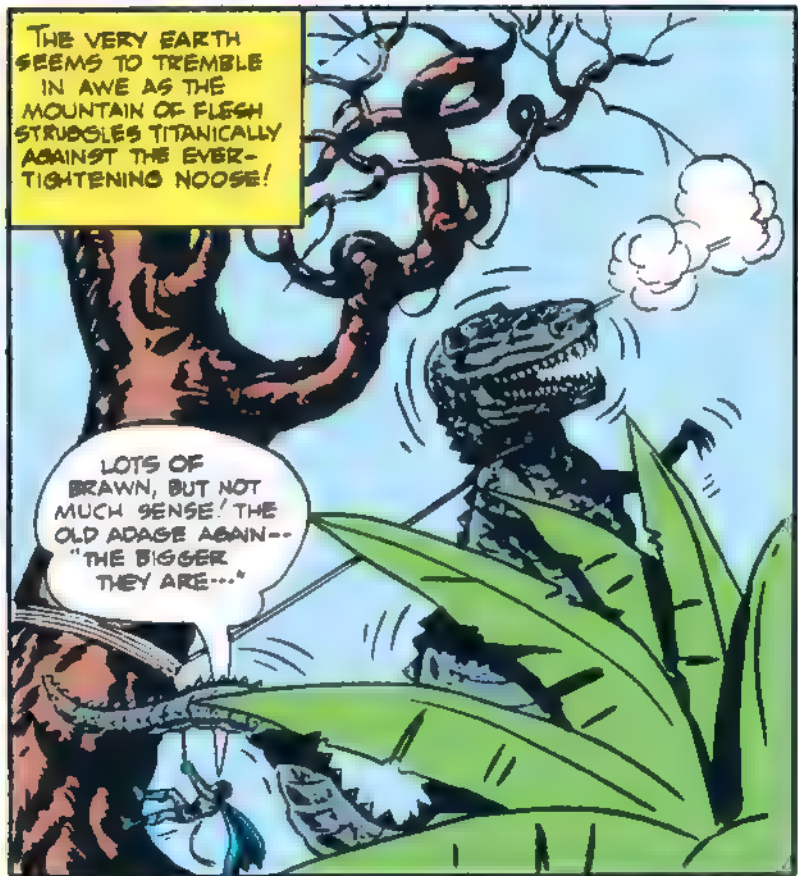
AFTER THIS, ROPING DOSIES SHOULD BE NOTHING AT ALL!

YAH! YAH! G'WAN, YOU OVERGROWN LIZARD!



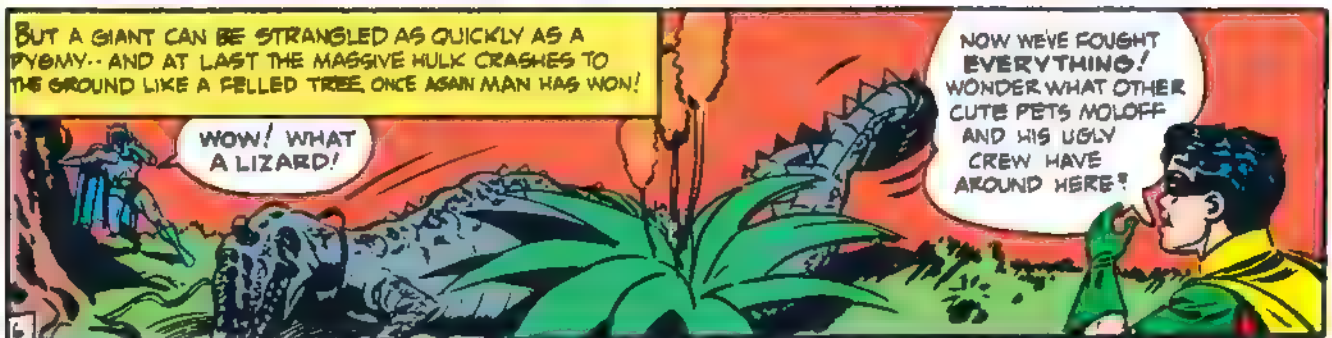
MAN AGAINST MONSTER! THE GREAT UNCHANGED STORY AS OLD AS TIME... BUT WHO WILL WRITE THE FINAL CHAPTER NOW?

YANKING UP THIS TREE WILL BE A JOB, JUMBO... IT'S AN OLD, TOUGH TREE WITH THICK, STRONG ROOTS!



THE VERY EARTH SEEMS TO TREMBLE IN AWE AS THE MOUNTAIN OF FLESH STRUGGLES TITANICALLY AGAINST THE EVER-TIGHTENING NOOSE!

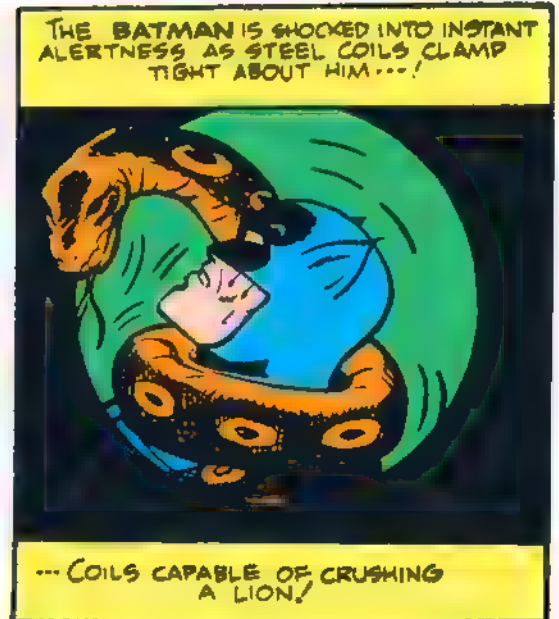
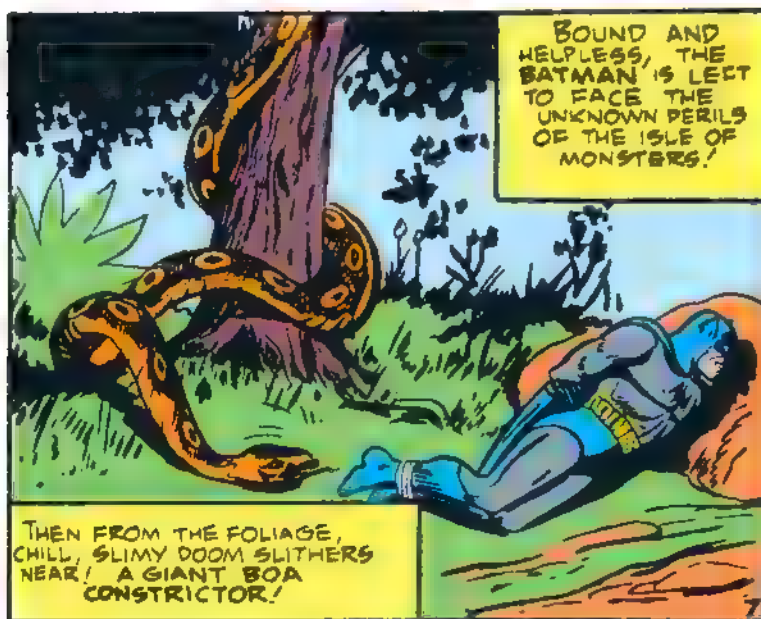
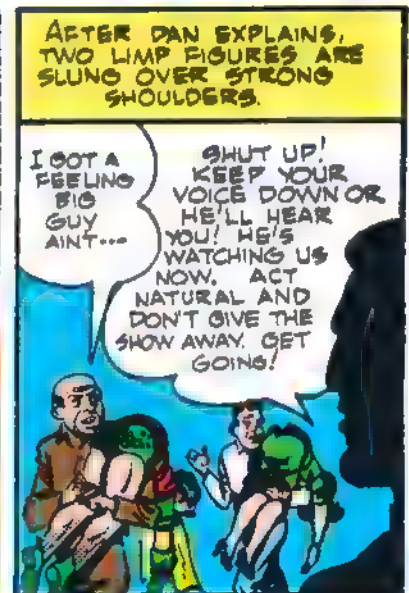
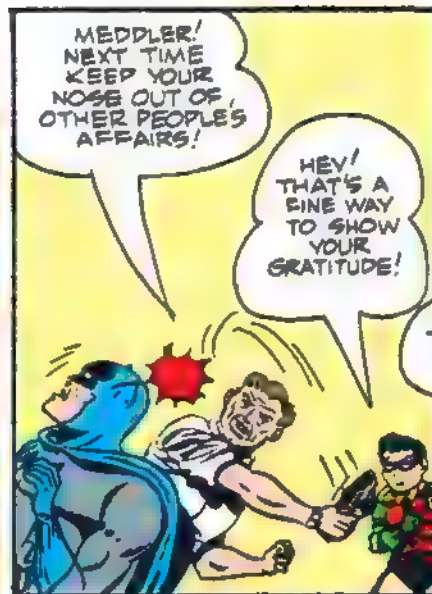
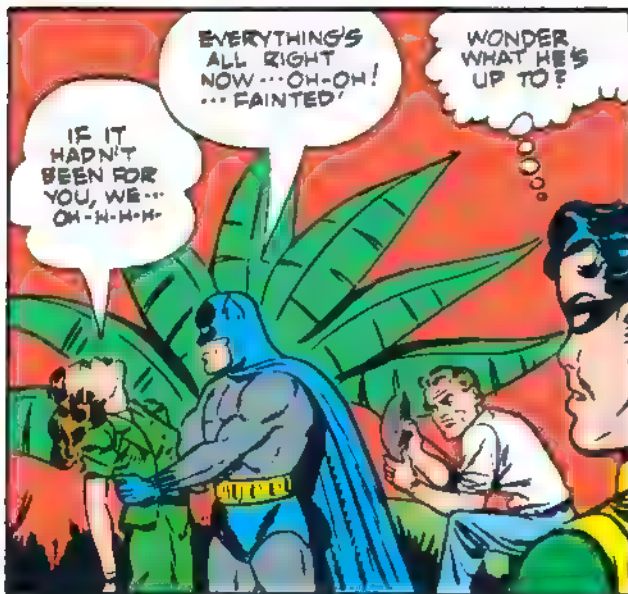
LOTS OF BRAWN, BUT NOT MUCH SENSE! THE OLD ADAGE AGAIN-- "THE BIGGER THEY ARE..."



BUT A GIANT CAN BE STRANGLER AS QUICKLY AS A PYGMY... AND AT LAST THE MASSIVE HULK CRASHES TO THE GROUND LIKE A FELLED TREE, ONCE AGAIN MAN HAS WON!

WOW! WHAT A LIZARD!

NOW WE'VE FOUGHT EVERYTHING! WONDER WHAT OTHER CUTE PETS MOLOFF AND HIS UGLY CREW HAVE AROUND HERE?



LOOP AFTER LOOP OF MUSCLED COILS SQUEEZE THE BATMAN IN DEATH'S COLD CLASP! RIBS CREAK UNDER THE TERRIBLE PRESSURE.

(UGH)...WONDER HOW ROBIN'S MAKING OUT?... (UGH)...WHAT A WAY TO DIE!... I'D LIKE TO SEE THE EXPRESSION ON THE JOKER'S FACE WHEN HE READS MY OBITUARY... (UGH)



JUST WHEN DARKNESS CLOSES IN... JUST WHEN THE BATMAN'S HEART THREATENS TO BURST... A RIFLE SHOT CRASHES THE SILENCE!



THE BATMAN CUTS HIS BONDS ON A SHARP ROCK...

HEY! COME OUT! I WANT TO THANK YOU! ... HOW? THAT'S ODD! NO ANSWER! ??



WRITHING IN DEATH, THE BOA CONSTRICTOR SLIDES FROM THE PRIN-RACKED BODY IT HAD SOUGHT TO CLAIM A VICTIM!



A SHOT... THANKS... WHOEVER YOU ARE... THANKS!

A FOOTPRINT! SOMEBODY WAS HERE --- SAVED MY LIFE --- AND DISAPPEARED! I DON'T GET IT!!



CERTAINLY MOLOFF OR THAT OTHER FELLOW WOULDN'T RESCUE ME / SOMEBODY IS PLAYING MY GUARDIAN ANGEL... BUT WHO? THIS, MR. BATMAN, IS A WEE BIT MYSTERIOUS!



MEANWHILE, BEFORE A GREAT CAGE OF WITNES BUILT AGAINST THE MOUTH OF A VAST CAVERN IN THE GLOOMY ISLAND DEPTHS ---

THIS THING CAN HOLD ANIMALS, SO IT OUGHTTA HOLD THIS KID!

DAN---HE MIGHT BE TORN TO PIECES! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE CARRYING THIS A BIT TOO FAR!

DON'T BE SILLY, DOLORES. THIS IS ALL PART OF THE GAME! DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M A MURDERER?



YOU--- YOU'RE SURE HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

OF COURSE! HONEY, DO YOU REALIZE THIS ISLAND MEANS A FORTUNE FOR US! BURIED TREASURE... THAT'S WHAT YOU COULD CALL IT---YES, BURIED TREASURE... NOW...



AFTER THEY
DEPART---



SOMETHING QUEER
IS GOING ON HERE
THAT NEEDS
EXPLAINING---I
WONDER WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT---

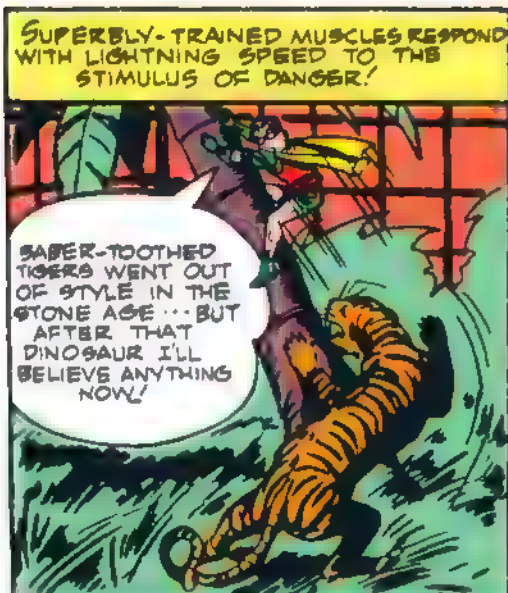
AS IF IN ANSWER, A TUSKED,
SHAGGY BEAST PADS SILENTLY
TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING LAD!

FEEL LIKE STRETCHING
MY---UH! A
SABER-TOOTHED
TIGER!



SUPERBLY-TRAINED MUSCLES RESPOND
WITH LIGHTNING SPEED TO THE
STIMULUS OF DANGER!

SABER-TOOTHED
TIGERS WENT OUT
OF STYLE IN THE
STONE AGE---BUT
AFTER THAT
DINOSAUR I'LL
BELIEVE ANYTHING
NOW!



BUT THE ANGRY SABER-TOOTH
IS NOT TO BE CHEATED!

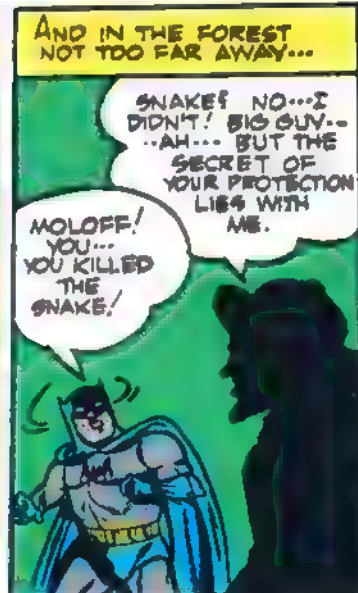
OH, OH! MY BELT
RADIO. IF THE
BATMAN IS ALIVE,
HE'LL COME!
BATMAN, CAN
YOU HEAR ME?
A TIGER HAS
ME TREADED!!!



AND IN THE FOREST
NOT TOO FAR AWAY---

SNAKE? NO---I
DIDN'T! BIG GUY--
--AH--- BUT THE
SECRET OF
YOUR PROTECTION
LIES WITH
ME.

MOLOFF!
YOU---
YOU KILLED
THE
SNAKE!



---A TIGER
HAS ME
TREADED!

NO, BATMAN--
I DID NOT SAVE
YOUR LIFE---
I HAVE COME
BACK TO
TAKE IT! IT
IS AS SIMPLE
AS ALL THAT!

MY RADIO---
ROBIN
IN TROUBLE!



OUT OF MY WAY!
ROBIN NEEDS ME!
OUT OF MY WAY!
COMING,
ROBIN---



HEARTENED BY THE
BATMAN'S CRY, ROBIN
STRIKES BACK AT THE
SNARLING MAN-KILLER!

COMING,
ROBIN!

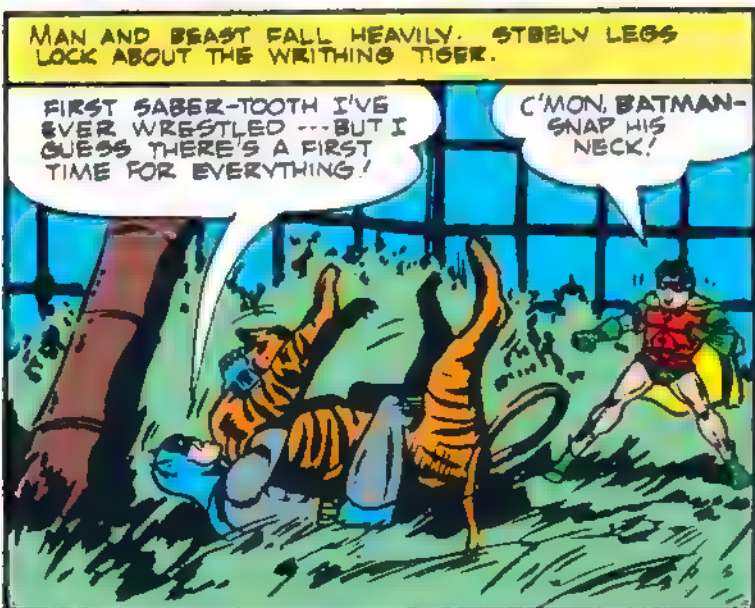
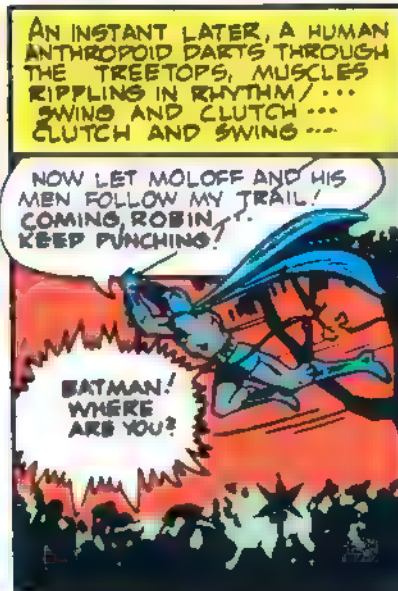


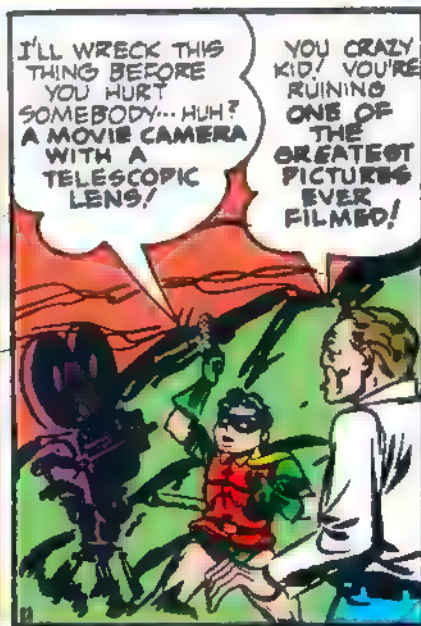
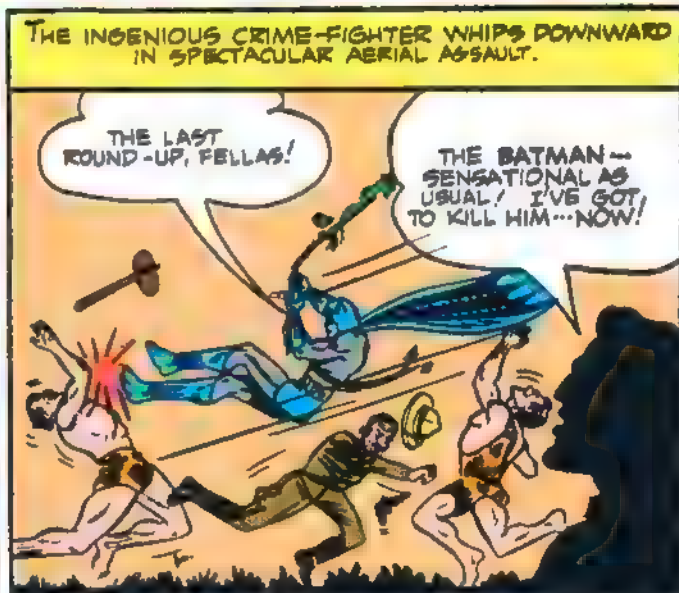
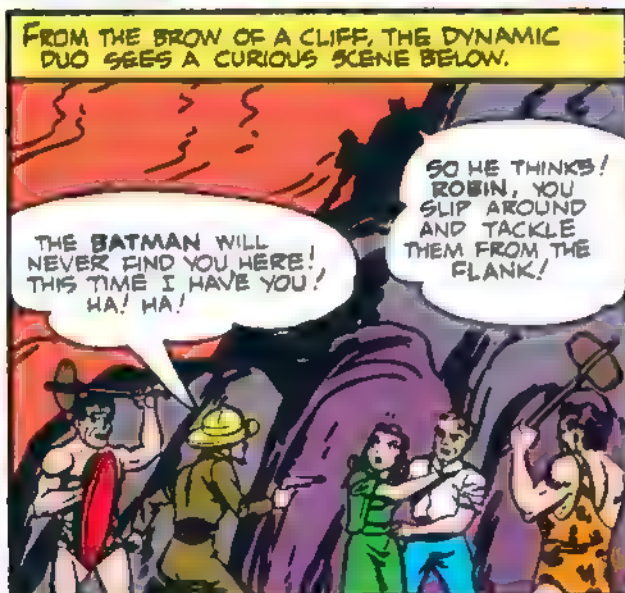
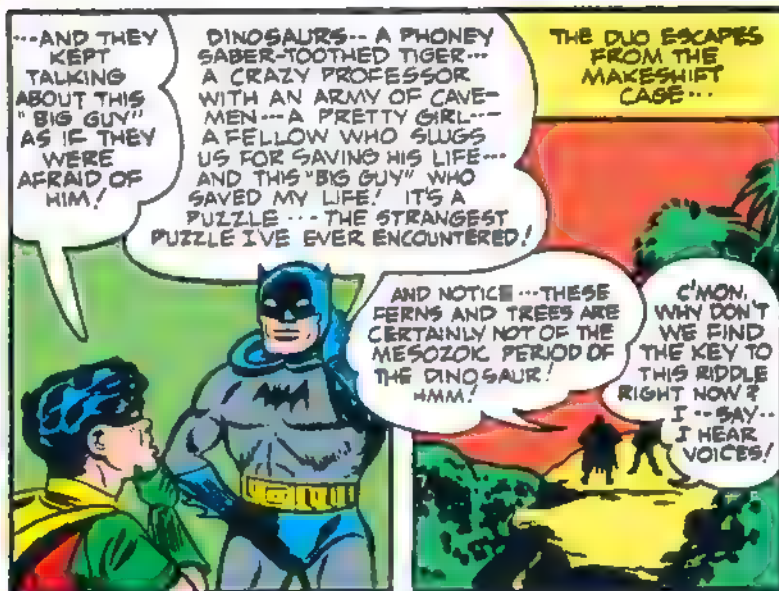
I'M WARNING
YOU. YOU'D
BETTER SCRAM
BEFORE THE
BATMAN GETS
HERE!

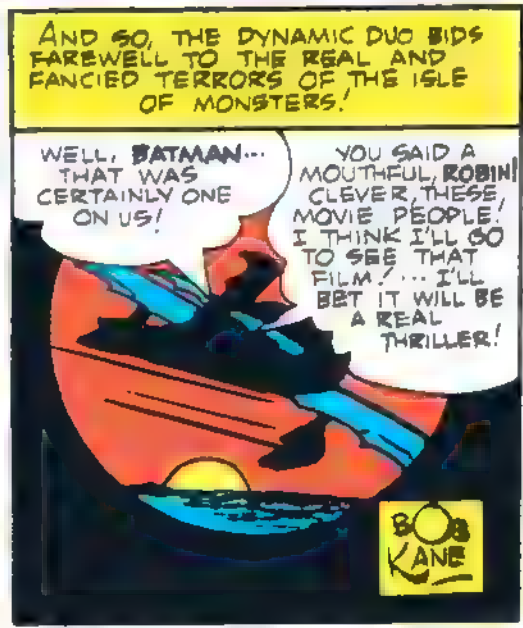
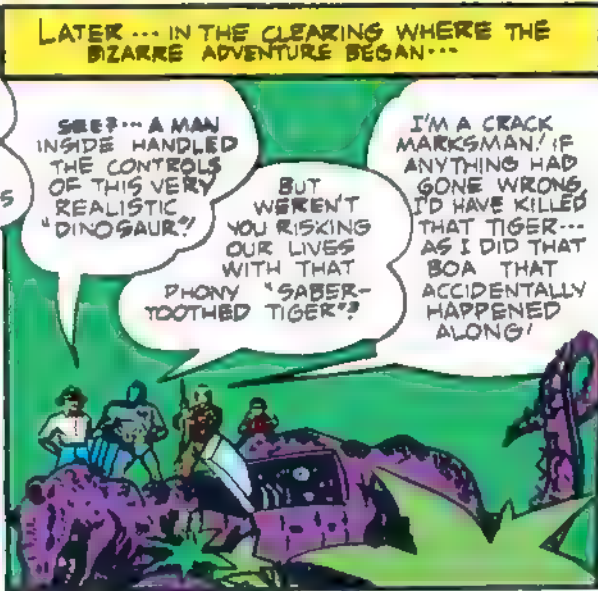
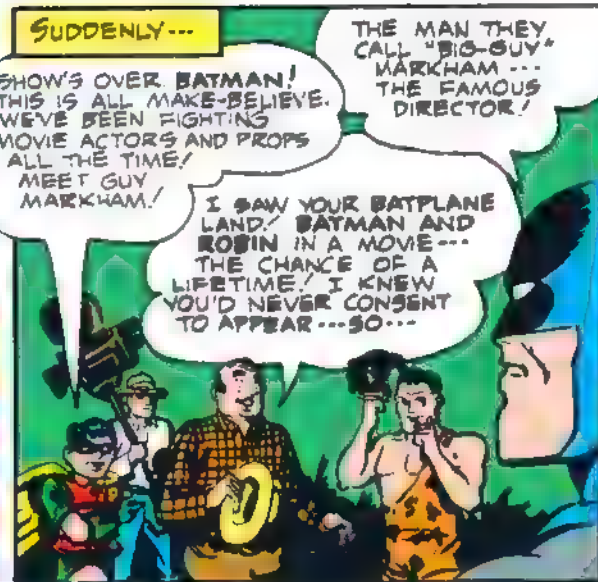
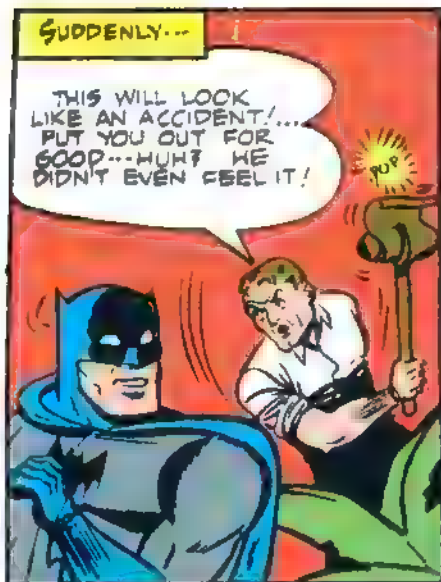
LIKE A BLOODHOUND ON THE SCENT, THE BATMAN FOLLOWS THE BLIND TRAIL OF THE URGING VOICE EMANATING FROM HIS WIRELESS.



LURCHING THROUGH BRAMBLE, STUMBLING OVER SNAGGING BRUSH AND ROOTS, SICK WITH APPREHENSION, THE BATMAN FOLLOWS THE INVISIBLE RADIO BEAM!

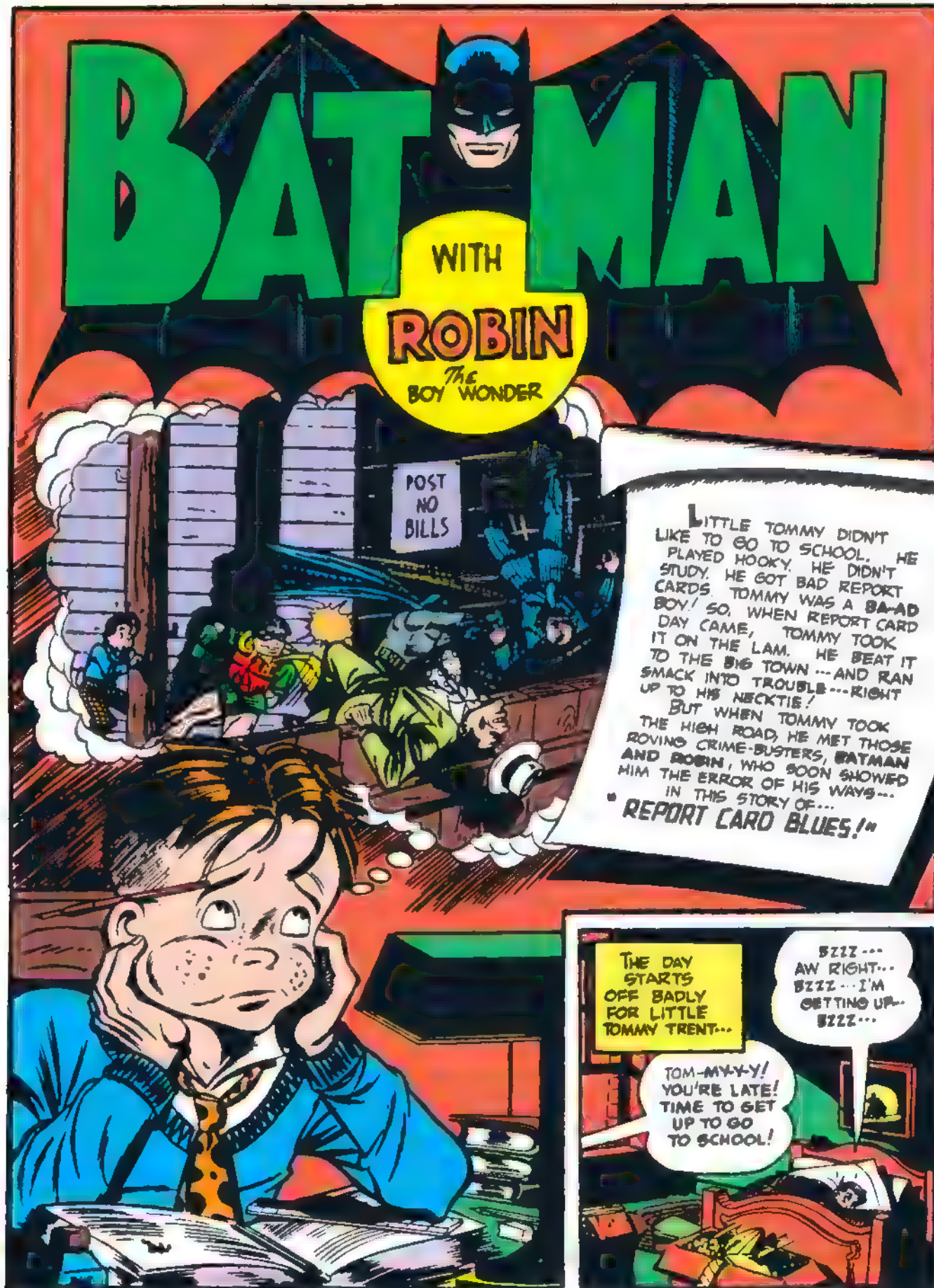






BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
The Boy Wonder



LITTLE TOMMY DIDN'T LIKE TO GO TO SCHOOL. HE PLAYED HOOKY. HE DIDN'T STUDY. HE GOT BAD REPORT CARDS. TOMMY WAS A BA-AD BOY! SO, WHEN REPORT CARD DAY CAME, TOMMY TOOK IT ON THE LAM. HE BEAT IT TO THE BIG TOWN ---AND RAN SMACK INTO TROUBLE---RIGHT UP TO HIS NECKTIE! BUT WHEN TOMMY TOOK THE HIGH ROAD, HE MET THOSE ROVING CRIME-BUSTERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO SOON SHOWED HIM THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS... IN THIS STORY OF...
"REPORT CARD BLUES!"

THE DAY STARTS OFF BADLY FOR LITTLE TOMMY TRENT...

BZZZ...
AW RIGHT...
BZZZ... I'M GETTING UP...
BZZZ...

TOM-MY-Y-Y!
YOU'RE LATE!
TIME TO GET UP TO GO TO SCHOOL!

YES, THE DAY STARTS OFF VERY BADLY INDEED

AND BE SURE YOU GO STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL---AND NOT PLAY HOOKY AS YOU DID YESTERDAY. YOUR FATHER WILL SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, TONIGHT!

GOLLY! HOW DID MOM FIND OUT ABOUT THAT?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, TOMMY'S DAY CONTINUES IN TERRIBLE FASHION!

PUPILS, TOMORROW YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR REPORT CARDS!

REPORT CARDS! O-O-O-H! I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD!

HIS FATHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT DOESN'T HELP MATTERS!

TOMMY, I'VE DECIDED NOT TO THRASH YOU IF YOU BRING HOME A BAD REPORT CARD AGAIN! INSTEAD, I WILL FORBID YOU TO PLAY AFTER SCHOOL!

GEE!

LATER... IN HIS ROOM, TOMMY PONDER'S OVER A BIG PROBLEM.

GEE WHIZ! I JUST KNOW I'M GONNA GET A BAD REPORT CARD, AND POP SAYS I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH THE FELLAS AFTER SCHOOL IF I DO!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY FOOTBALL, OR HAVE ANY FUN ANYMORE! HUH! I'LL SHOW 'EM! THEY'LL BE SORRY! I'LL RUN AWAY, THAT'S WHAT!

SOME TIME LATER, A SMALL FIGURE LOOKS LONGINGLY AT HIS MOTHER AND FATHER----

WITH WINTER COMING ON, TOMMY WILL NEED THIS HEAVY SWEATER!

GEE! MAYBE I---NO! I SAID I'M GONNA RUN AWAY, AND I'M (SNIFF) GONNA DO IT, TOO. (SNIFF, SNIFF.)

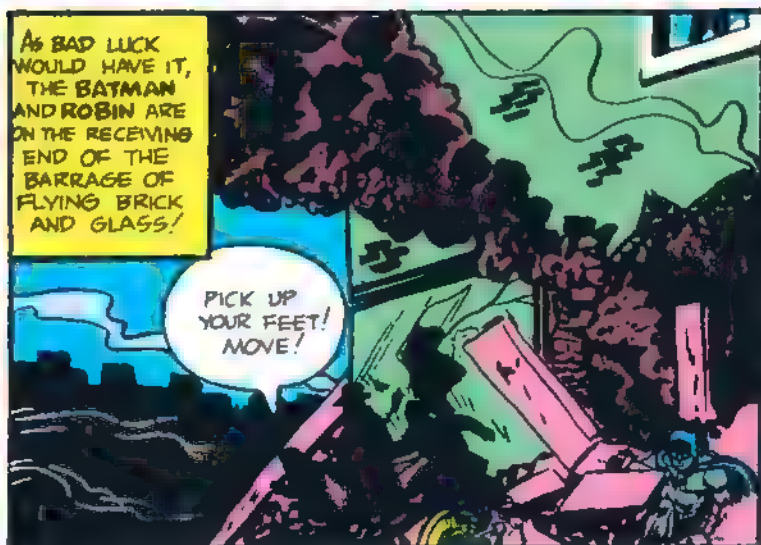
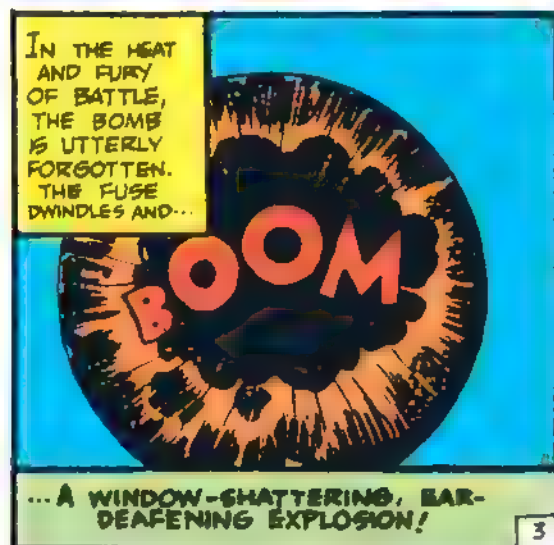
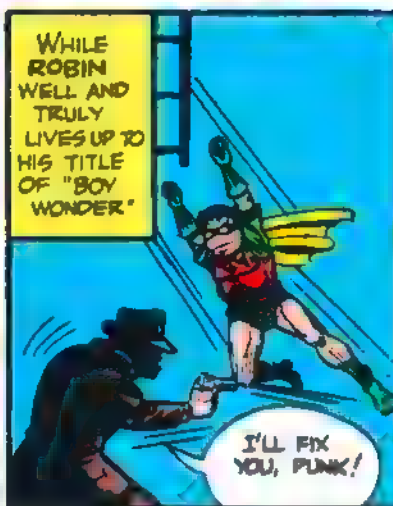
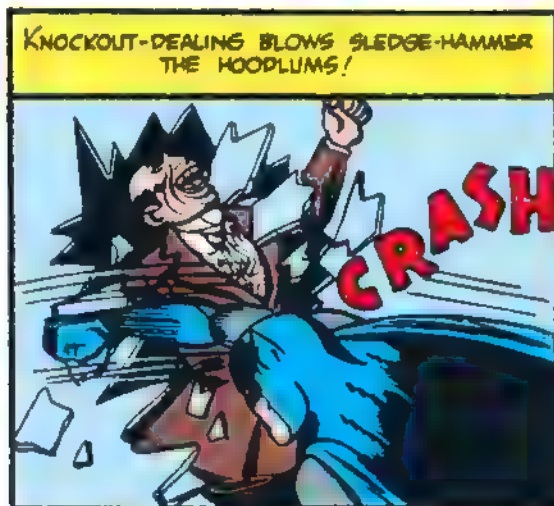
HIS HEART THUMPING LOUDLY, TOMMY STEPS OUT INTO NIGHT-BLACK, OMINOUS---AND TERRIFYING---

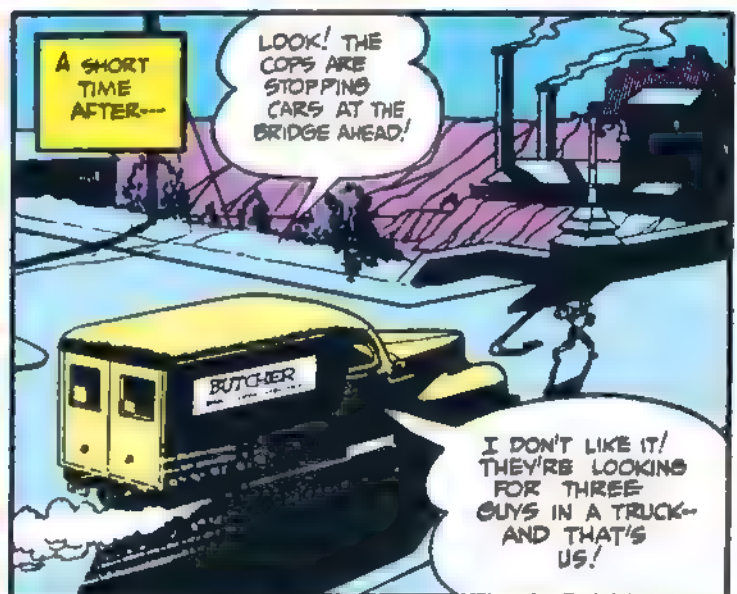
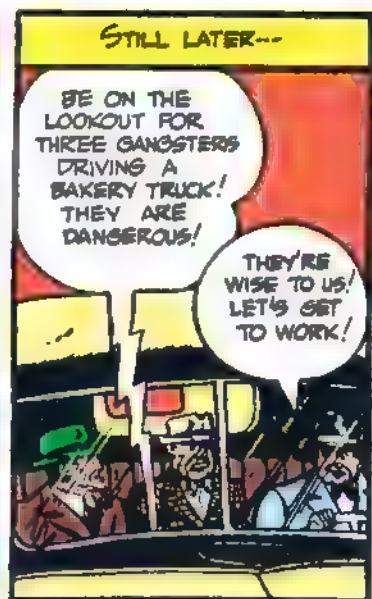
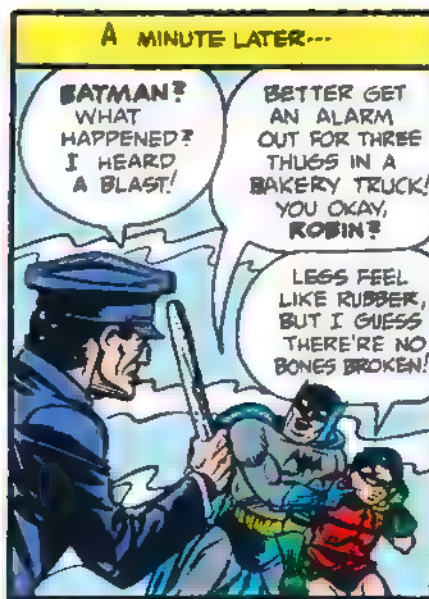
UH!

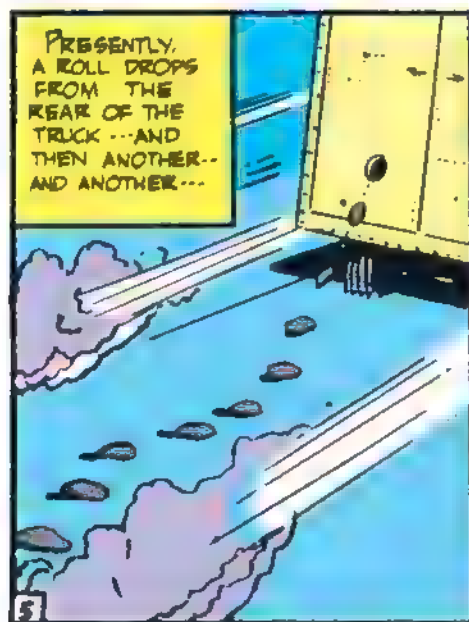
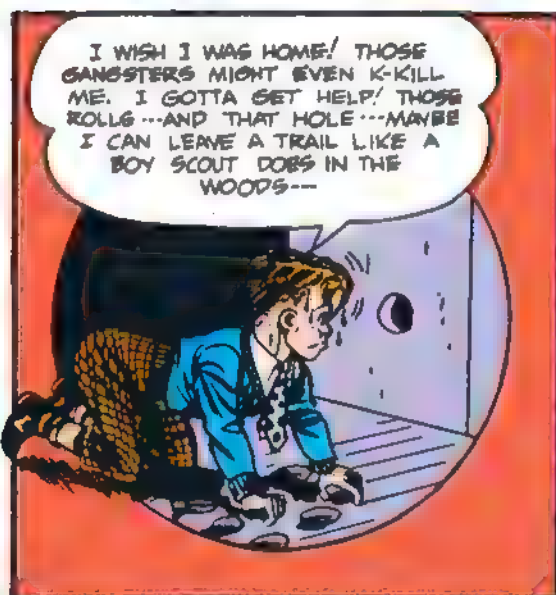
WHO!

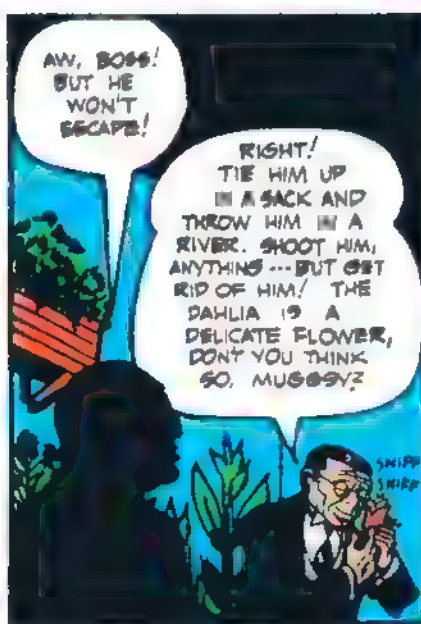
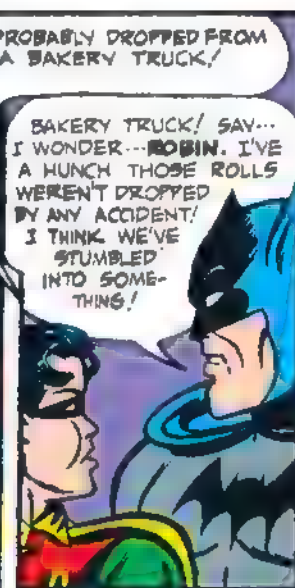
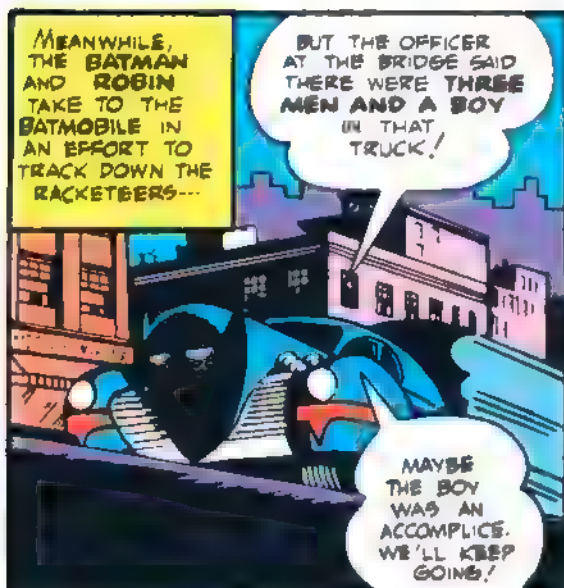
FULL OF MISGIVINGS, BUT MANFULLY DETERMINED, TOMMY SETS FEET ON THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE--

LITTLE TOMMY TRENT, YOU'LL REMEMBER THIS NIGHT ALL YOUR LIFE!







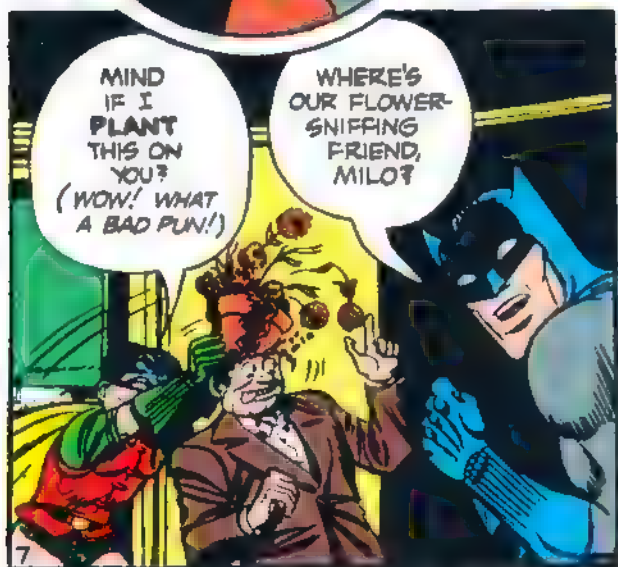
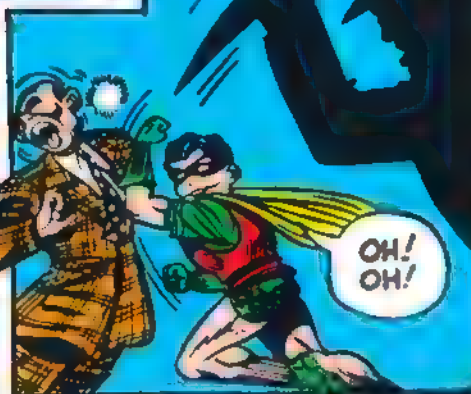
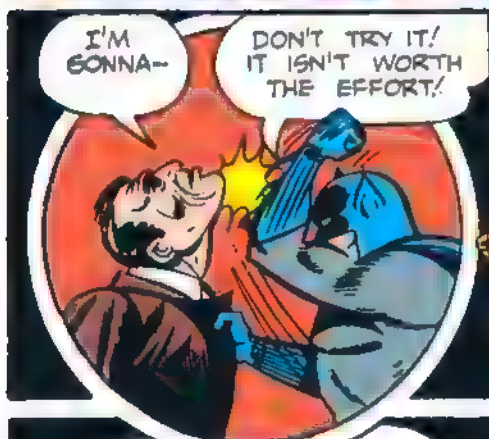




KEEN-EDGED DANGER SWOOPS DOWN TOWARD ROBIN'S UNDEFENDED BACK---

BUT ROBIN'S NIMBLE BRAIN AND LITHE BODY ACT IN PERFECT RHYTHM!

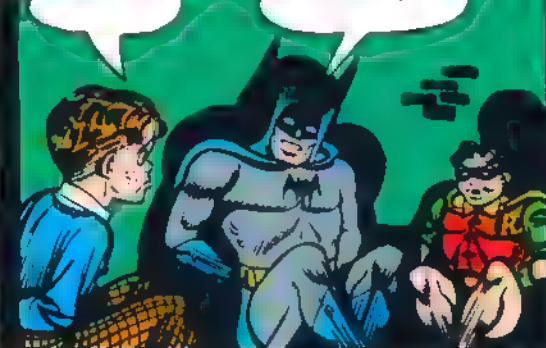
MY, AREN'T YOU THE LITTLE CUT-UP!



HELPLESS NOW, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SURRENDER --- AND MINUTES LATER ---

GOSH, MR. BATMAN, I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO GET CAPTURED ON ACCOUNT OF ME!

FORGET IT, SON, BUT WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU GOT MIXED UP IN ALL THIS?



THE BATMAN LISTENS TO A BOY'S TALE OF WOE.

AND I'LL NEVER RUN AWAY AGAIN! 'COURSE I'M NOT SCARED NOW, 'CAUSE YOU'LL GET US OUT OF THIS. WON'T YOU, MR. BATMAN?

OF COURSE, SON --- (THIS KID CERTAINLY BELIEVES IN ME. CAN'T LET HIM KNOW WE'RE IN A SPOT! MUST DO SOMETHING.)



MEANWHILE MILO HAS CALLED TOGETHER HIS PACK OF JACKALS---

WHAT'S THE IDEA O' CALLIN' US IN, BOSS?

YOU KNOW THIS IS THE FIRST OF THE MONTH --- WE SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THOSE WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT OUR --- "PROTECTION!"



SURE-- THIS IS PAYOFF NIGHT!

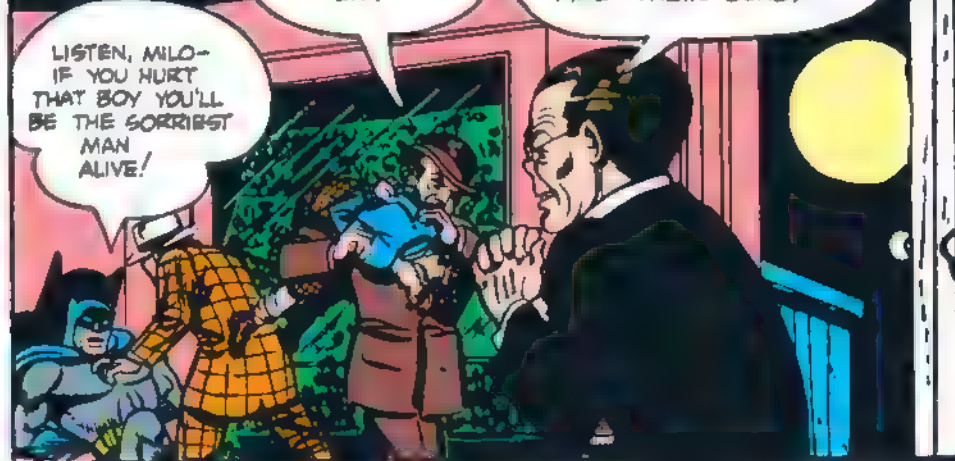
RIGHT! BUT THE POLICE ARE ON THE PROWL FOR US! SO WE MUST WORK FASTER. SPLIT INTO THREE GROUPS AND TAKE THREE CARS TO THOSE ADDRESSES!



THE BATMAN AND ROBIN... THEY GET THE WORKS LATER, EH?

YES! THE BOY COMES WITH ME TO SERVE AS A SHIELD IN CASE THE POLICE SHOULD DECIDE TO FIRE THEIR GUNS!

LISTEN, MILO-- IF YOU HURT THAT BOY YOU'LL BE THE SORRIEST MAN ALIVE!



AFTER THE TRIO OF "TORPEDO" CARS ROAR AWAY---

RELAX, CHUM--- YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE 'CEPT MAYBE IN THE RIVER, HAW!

THAT INNOCENT BOY---HE'S LIABLE TO BE HURT BY GUNFIRE---

GOT TO DO SOMETHING --BUT WHAT?



THEN A WILD PLAN --- THE BRAIN-CHILD OF DESPERATION ITSELF!-- IS PUT INTO ACTION---

I HOPE THIS APE IS AS DUMB AS HE LOOKS.

COPPERS? I BETTER SEE---

ROBIN, I HEARD A NOISE AT THE DOOR!

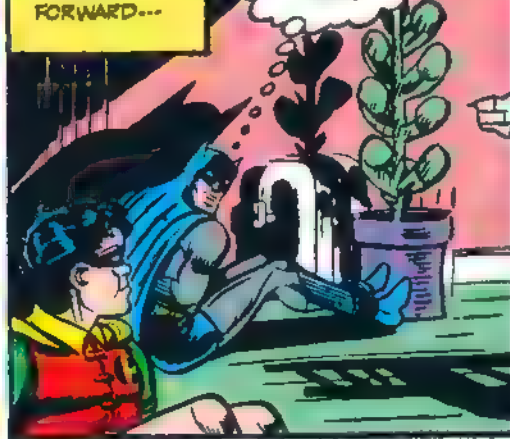
BATMAN'S UP TO SOMETHING-BETTER PLAY ALONG!

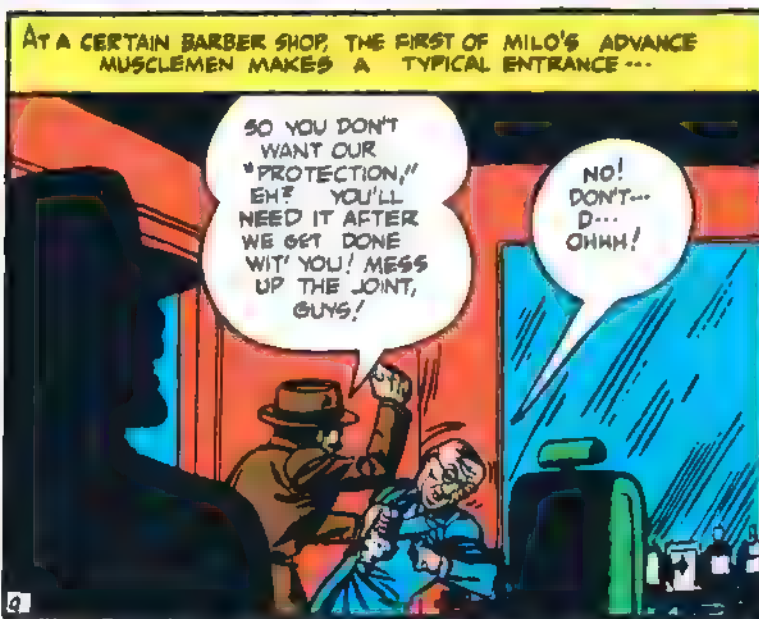
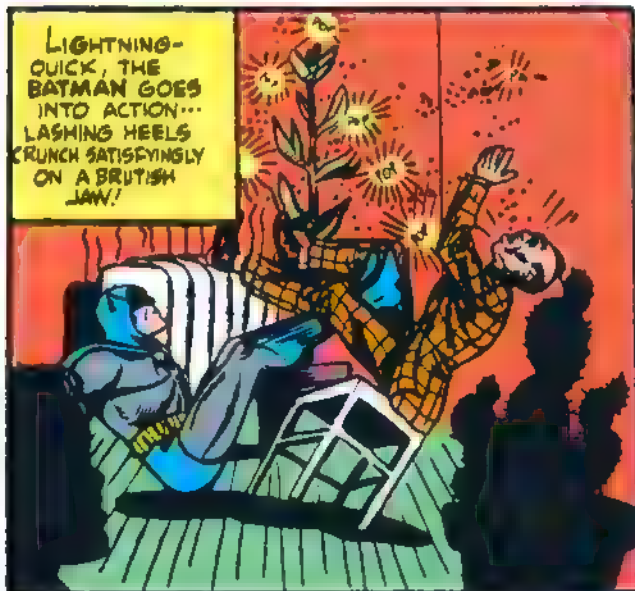
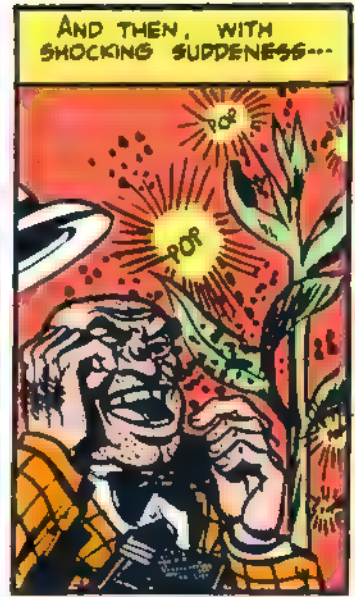
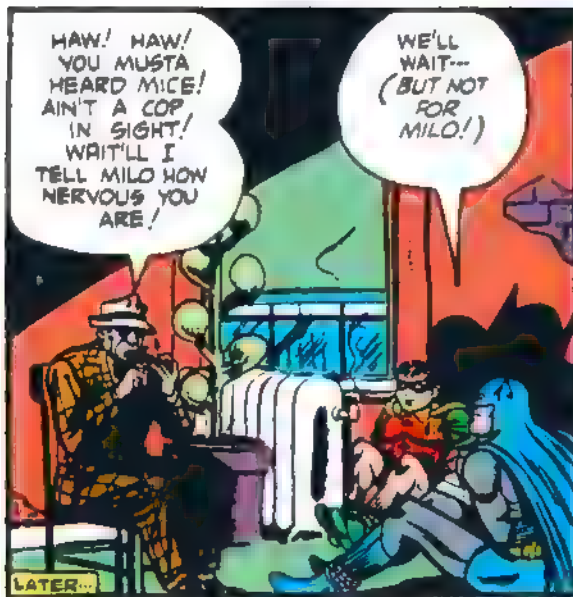
I'LL BET IT'S THE POLICE!



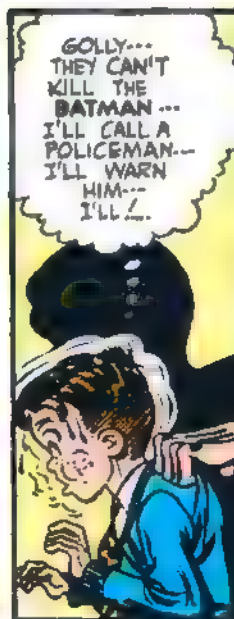
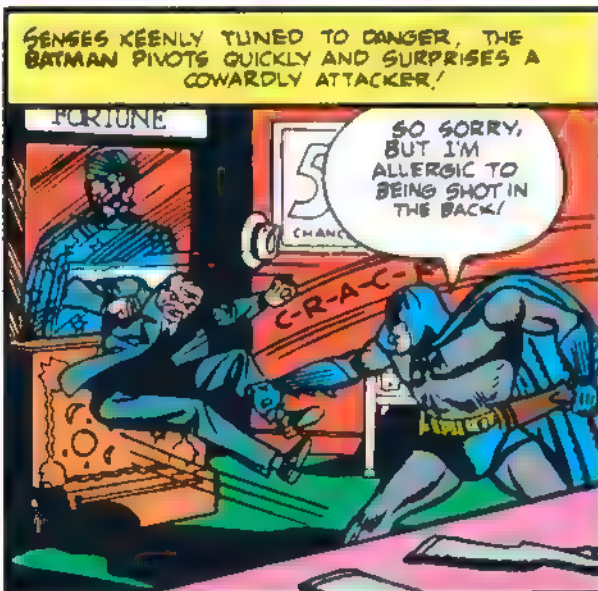
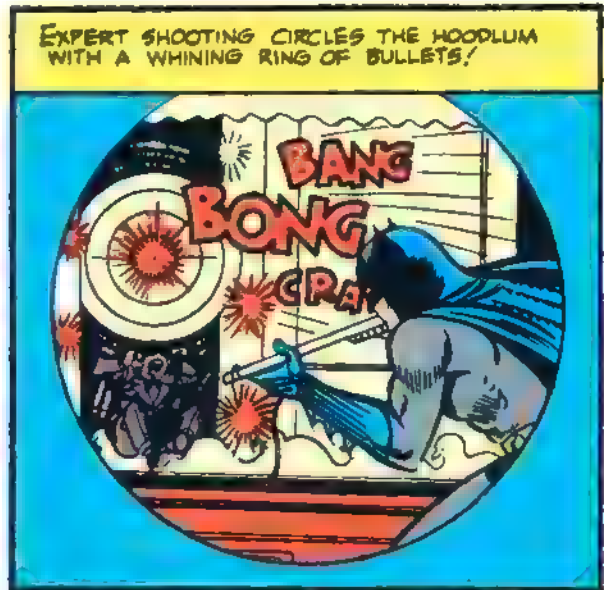
THE INSTANT THE THUG LEAVES TO INVESTIGATE, THE BATMAN PUSHES A FERN FORWARD---

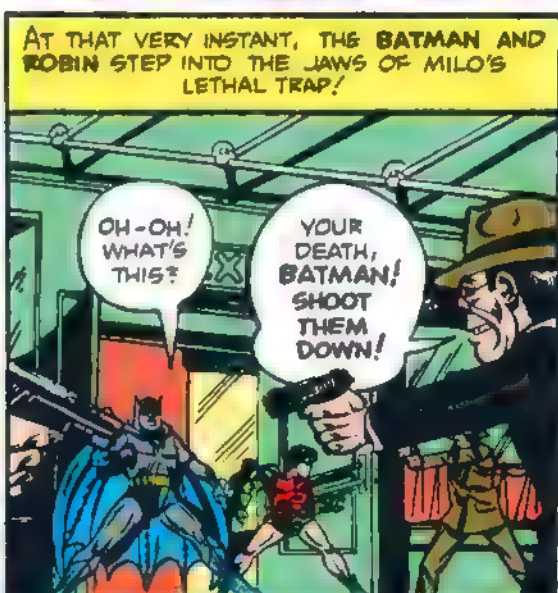
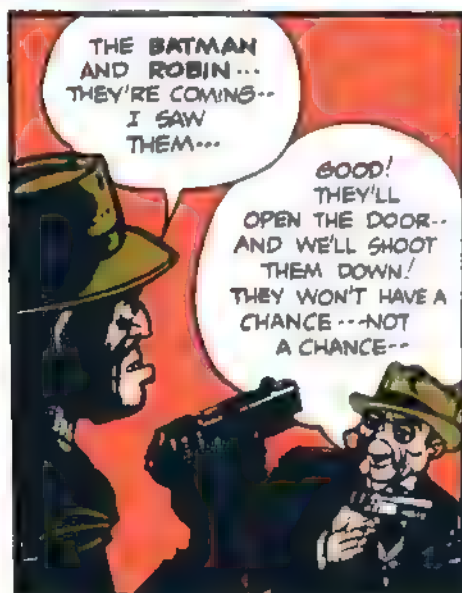
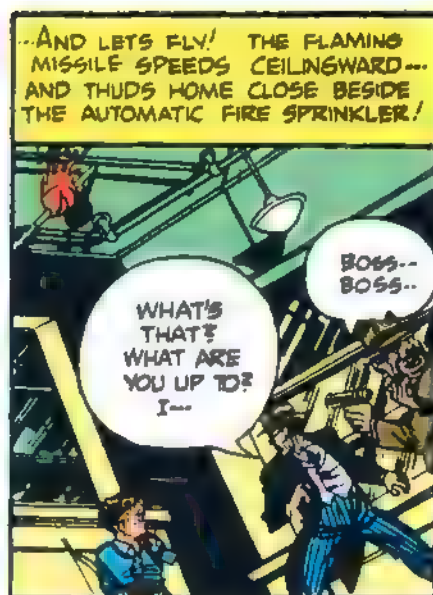
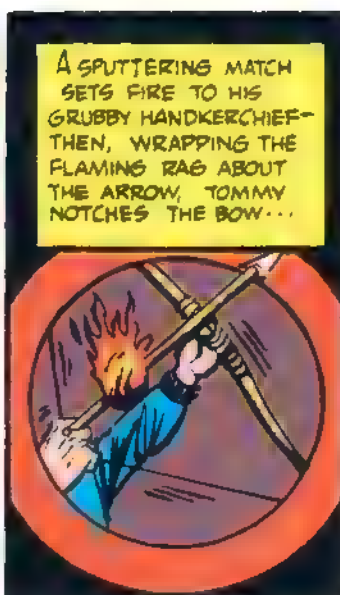
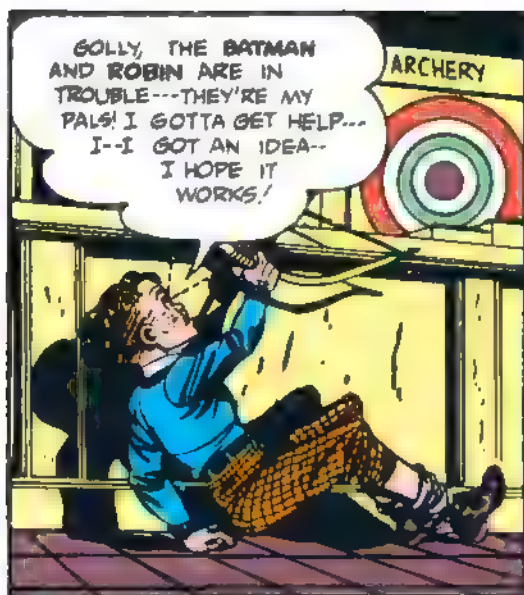
RIGHT NEXT TO THE STEAM AND THE CHAIR --- THIS HAD BETTER WORK OR ELSE!











REINFORCEMENTS SUDDENLY APPEAR! A FIRE BRIGADE CHARGES IN AND QUICKLY TAKES STOCK OF THE SITUATION!

NO FIRE HERE! LOOK! BATMAN AND ROBIN FIGHTING TOUGHS! LET'S MAKE IT HOT FOR THE BUMS!

MILO AND HIS MOB ARE PUT OUT---BUT GOOD!

YOU'RE NOT SO HOT!

YOU'RE GOING TO SNIFF LILIES FROM NOW ON, MILO!

SOME TIME AFTER--- THREE FIGURES WALK DOWN A WINDING ROAD---

HOW DID YOU KNOW HEAT SETS OFF CEILING FIRE SPRINKLERS AND SENDS AN ALARM TO THE FIREHOUSE?

MY TEACHER TAUGHT ME THAT IN MY CIVICS CLASS DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

THAT'S MY HOUSE! GOLLY, I'M AFRAID OF SCHOOL AGAIN. I ALWAYS GET BAD REPORT CARDS!

ANY BOY WHO CAN THINK AS CLEARLY IN TIGHT SPOTS AS YOU DO SHOULD BE GOOD IN SCHOOL!

WE WON'T FORGET YOU SO EASILY, TOMMY!

YOU'RE GOING AWAY NOW. I'LL ...I'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN---

THIS IS A SMALL WORLD, TOMMY. YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHEN OR WHERE WE'RE LIKELY TO MEET AGAIN---

AND SO, JUST AS PALE DAWN CREEPS OVER THE HORIZON-- A VERY EXCITEMENT-WEARY LITTLE BOY SNEAKS NOISELESSLY HOME---

GOODBYE, BATMAN AND ROBIN.... GOODBYE---

AND NOT SO LONG AFTER--

MOTHER-- MOTHER---

TOMMY, GET UP FOR SCHOOL--IT'S LA--- WHY, TOMMY--- YOU'RE UP! ALL DRESSED---

MOTHER-- MOTHER--- IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

WHY, TOMMY-- ANYONE WOULD THINK YOU HAD BEEN AWAY FROM ME A LONG TIME INSTEAD OF BEING IN BED AND SLEEPING ALL NIGHT---

TOMMY MAKES A NEW VOW---

AND I'M GOING TO STUDY HARD FROM NOW ON--- NO MORE HOOKY FOR ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO CHANGE YOU LIKE THIS---BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED-- VERY GLAD!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

ONCE AGAIN BATMAN, DARK
WARRIOR OF THE NIGHT, AND
HIS YOUNG DAREDEVIL AIDE,
ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, CROSS
THE PATH OF AN OLD ENEMY-- THE
BEAUTIFUL QUEEN OF CRIME
KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE
UNDERWORLD AS ---THE CAT-
WOMAN... A STRANGE FIGURE
INDEED... WITH WOMAN'S
BODY AND CAT'S HEAD IS
THE CAT-WOMAN -- CLEVER
MISTRESS OF MENACE!
ONCE AGAIN THE FEMALE
SPITFIRE BARES HER CLAWS AND
WAGES HER NINE LIVES IN A
MIGHTY DUEL WITH THE
DYNAMIC DUO AS THE
MASTER SWORDSMEN OF
JUSTICE STRIVE TO VANQUISH--
"THE PRINCESS
OF PLUNDER!"

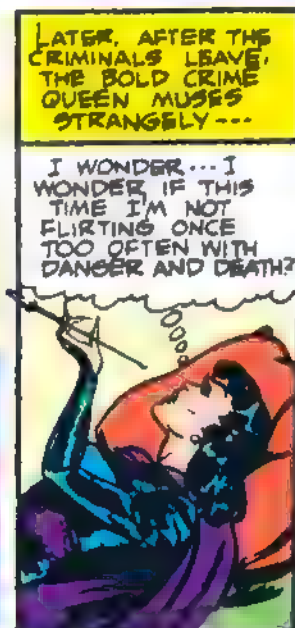
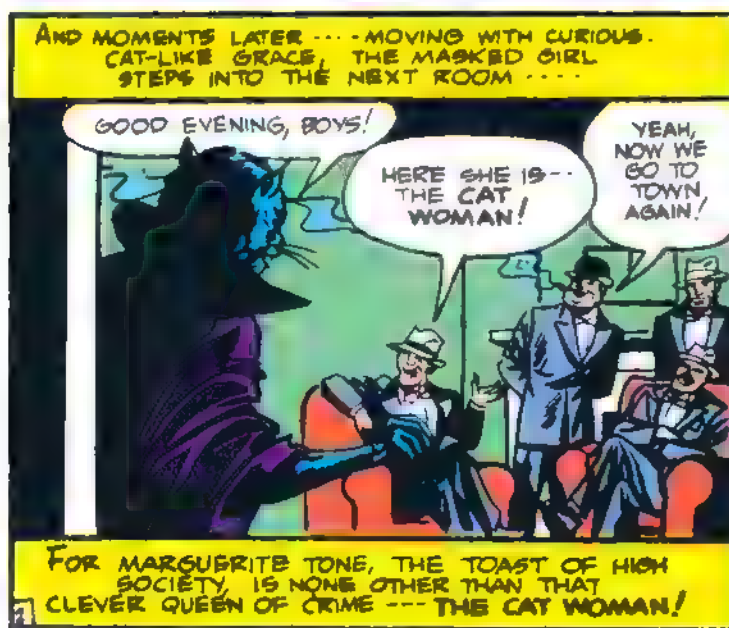
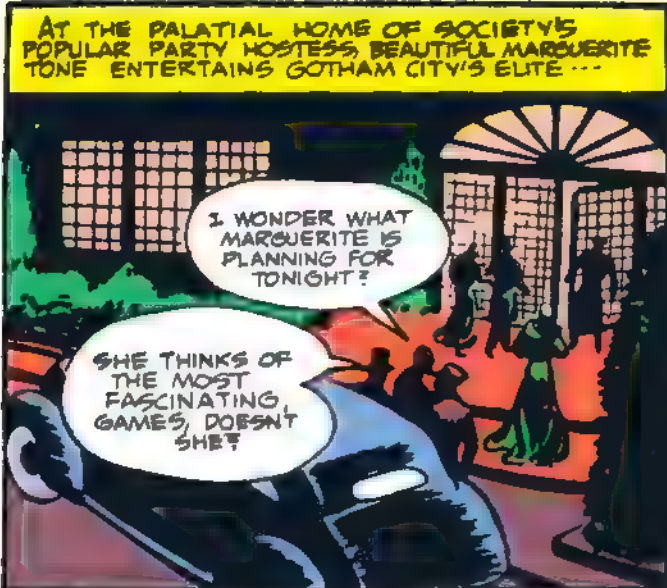
JOHN
WAYNE

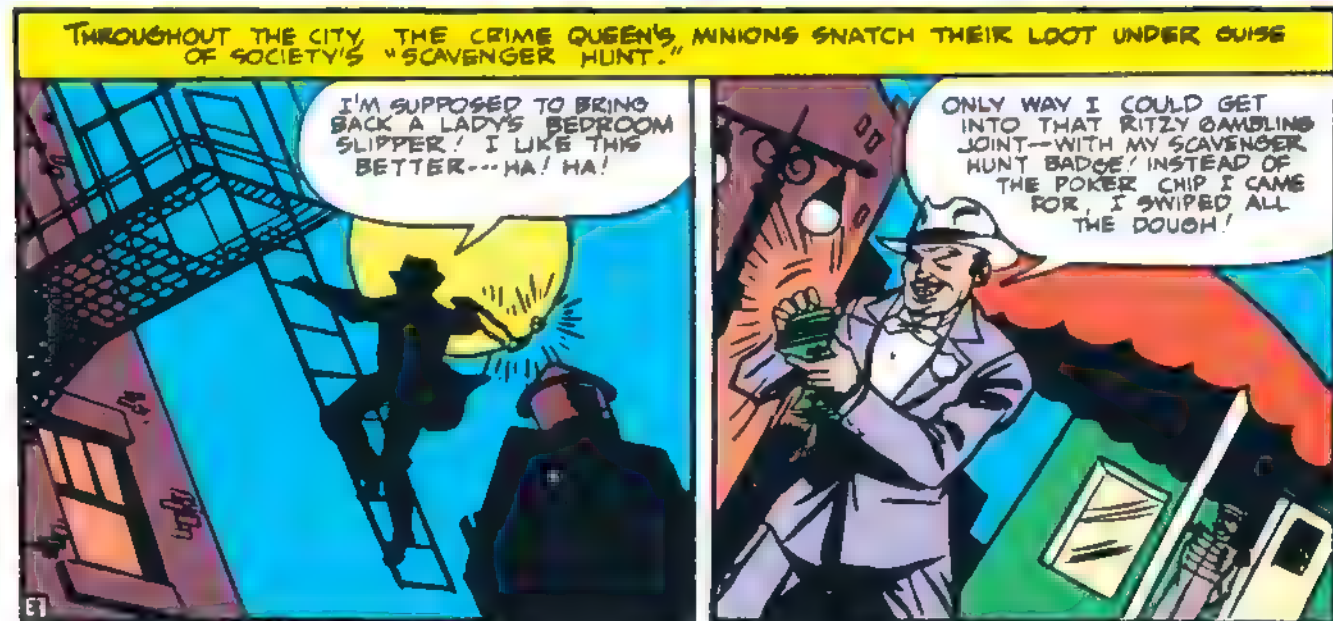
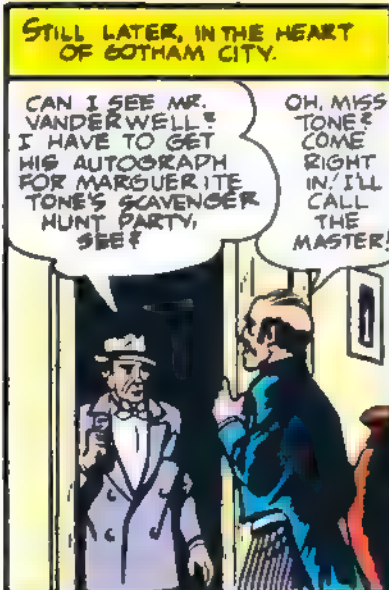


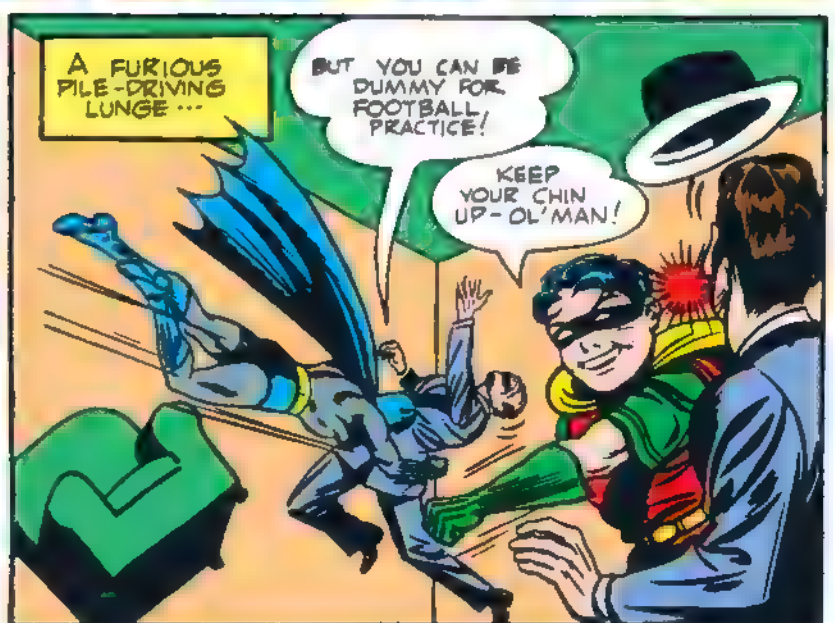
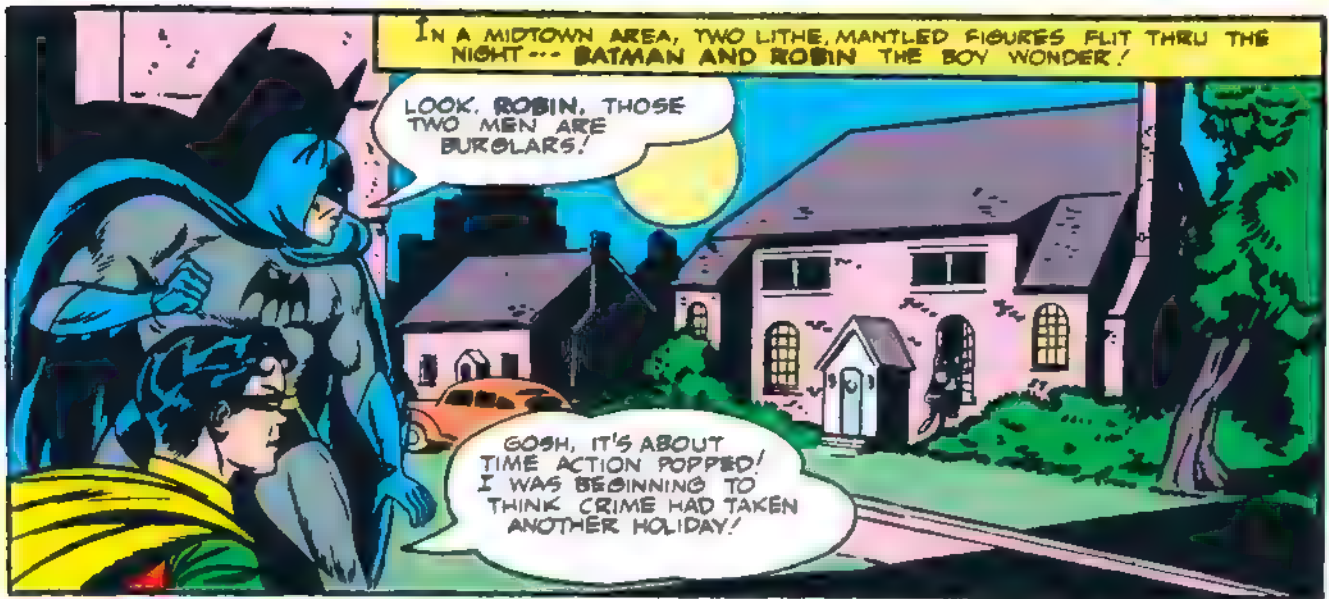
IT IS A CALM, PEACEFUL EVENING AND
BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON FIND
THEMSELVES BORED BY INACTIVITY--

DICK, I THINK THE
COSTUMES OF BATMAN
AND ROBIN NEED AN
AIRING,
DON'T
YOU?

SUITS ME! FOR
A WHILE I WAS
AFRAID YOU'D
ATTEND
MARGUERITE
TONE'S PARTY
TONIGHT
INSTEAD!





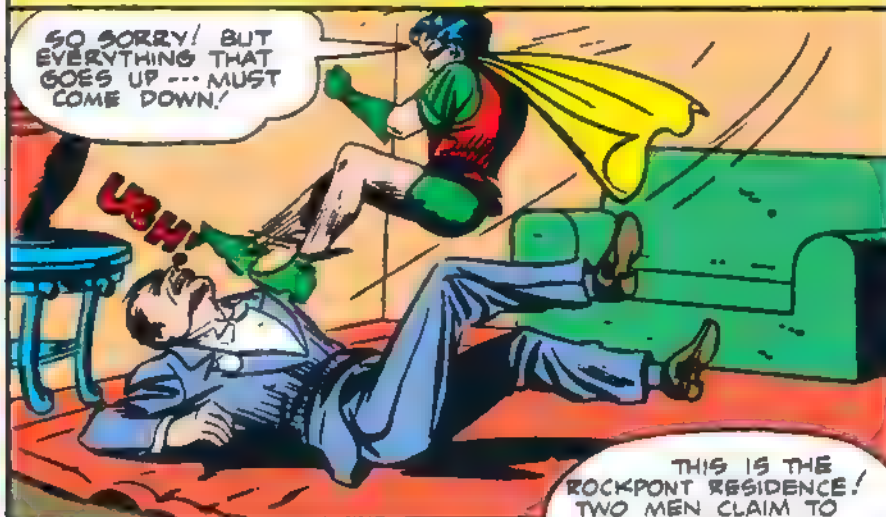


ROBIN IS GREETED BY A PAIR OF FEET --- BOTTOMS UP!



WHOOOPS!
'PON MY SOLE!

BUT WITH AN AGILE TWIST, THE BOY WONDER SPINS INTO AN ACROBATIC SOMERSAULT AND---



SO SORRY! BUT EVERYTHING THAT GOES UP --- MUST COME DOWN!

USH!

THIS IS THE ROCKPONT RESIDENCE! TWO MEN CLAIM TO BE LOOKING FOR A FRENCH POODLE AS PART OF YOUR SCAVENGER HUNT! IS THAT TRUE?

SEE--?

MARGUERITE TONES SCAVENGER HUNT? WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

THAT'S A GAO!

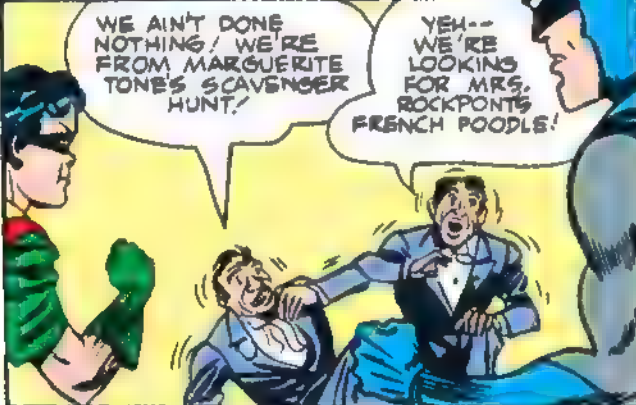


WHY, YES! OH, I HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG! IT'S ALL IN FUN, YOU KNOW.



WE AIN'T DONE NOTHING! WE'RE FROM MARGUERITE TONES SCAVENGER HUNT!

YEH-- WE'RE LOOKING FOR MRS. ROCKPONT'S FRENCH POODLE!

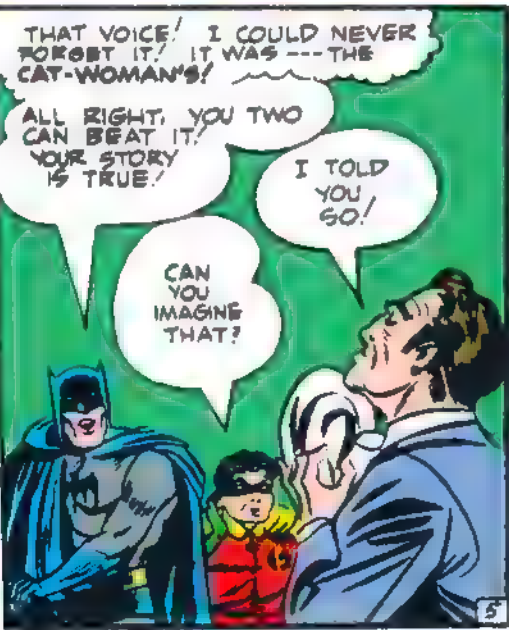


THAT VOICE! I COULD NEVER FORGET IT! IT WAS --- THE CAT-WOMAN'S!

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO CAN BEAT IT! YOUR STORY IS TRUE!

I TOLD YOU GO!

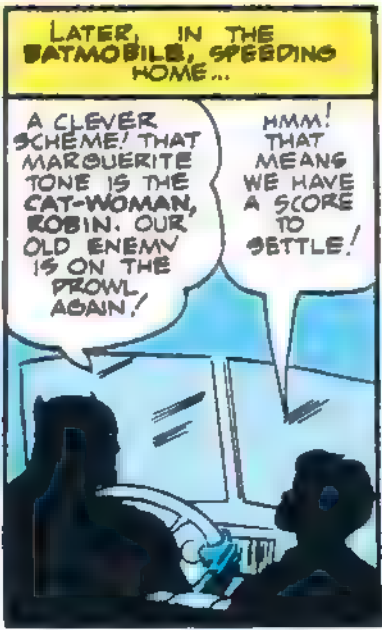
CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?



LATER, IN THE BATMOBILE, SPEEDING HOME...

A CLEVER SCHEME! THAT MARGUERITE TONE IS THE CAT-WOMAN, ROBIN. OUR OLD ENEMY IS ON THE PROWL AGAIN!

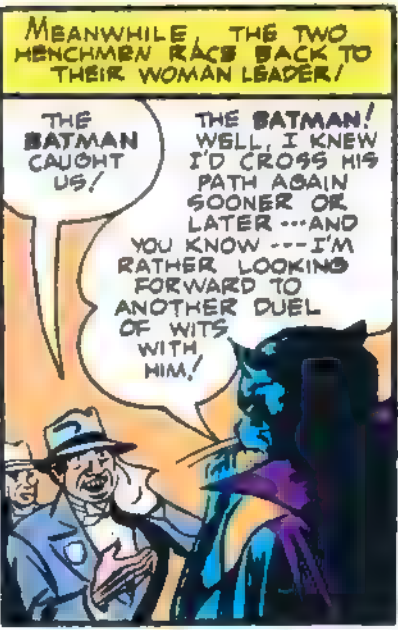
HMM! THAT MEANS WE HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE!



MEANWHILE, THE TWO HENCHMEN RACE BACK TO THEIR WOMAN LEADER!

THE BATMAN CAUGHT US!

THE BATMAN! WELL, I KNEW I'D CROSS HIS PATH AGAIN SOONER OR LATER...AND YOU KNOW --- I'M RATHER LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER DUEL OF WITS WITH HIM!



A FEW DAYS LATER, IN
BRUCE WAYNE'S MORNING MAIL---

WELL, WELL! MARGUERITE
TONE IS GIVING ANOTHER PARTY
TOMORROW NIGHT! "COME
DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE
CHARACTER!"

SHE MUST
HAVE SOMETHING
UP HER SLEEVE.
ARE YOU GOING,
BRUCE?



YES...AND
AS MY
FAVORITE
CHARACTER!
GUESS WHO!



THE NEXT NIGHT---

YOU STAY HERE
WITH THE BATMOBILE
WHILE I SEE WHAT'S
UP! PERHAPS THIS
TIME WE CAN CATCH
THE CAT-WOMAN RED-
HANDED!

AW,
I MISS
ALL THE
FUN!

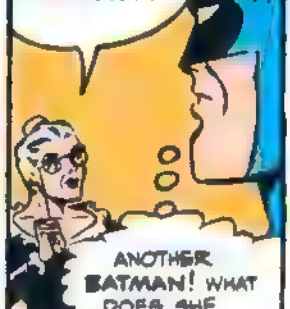


FAVORITE CHARACTERS---
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
SCARLETT O'HARA, ABE
LINCOLN, NAPOLEON,
CHARLIE CHAPLIN AND
THERE'S THE
CAT-WOMAN! SHE'S HAD
THE NERVE TO COME
DRESSED AS
HERSELF!



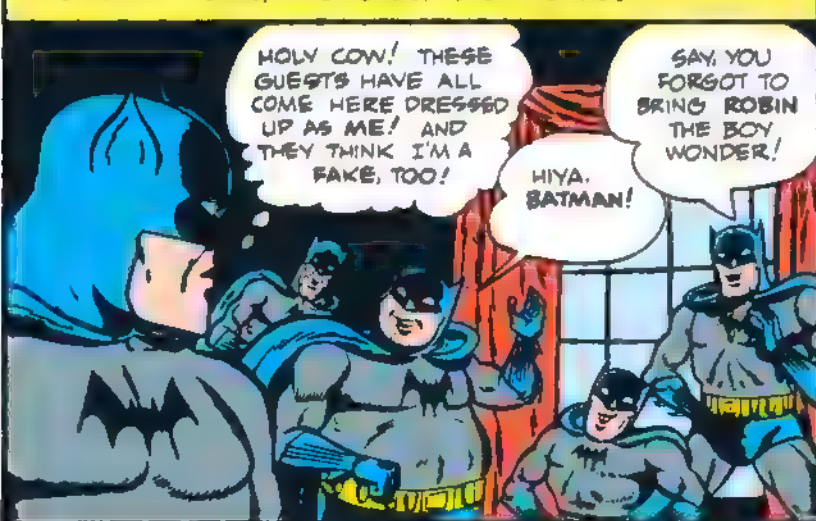
BOLDLY, THE BATMAN
ENTERS, MINGLES WITH
THE COSTUME-CLAD
GUESTS!

LOOK---
ANOTHER
BATMAN!
MY FAVORITE
CHARACTER!



ANOTHER
BATMAN! WHAT
DOES SHE
MEAN!

THE CRIME-FIGHTER'S SEARCHING EYES SOON DISCOVER
THE ANSWER --- SEVERAL BATMEN MEET HIS ASTOUNDED
GAZE---FAT ONES, TALL ONES, SHORT ONES!



HOLY COW! THESE
GUESTS HAVE ALL
COME HERE DRESSED
UP AS ME! AND
THEY THINK I'M A
FAKE, TOO!

SAY, YOU
FORGOT TO
BRING ROBIN
THE BOY
WONDER!

HIYA,
BATMAN!

SUDDENLY, THE TALL "BATMAN"
WHISPERS GRUFFLY TO THE NEW ARRIVAL--

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU
GOT HERE, DUKE! C'MON,
WE'VE GOT TO JOIN
THE CAT-WOMAN! SHE'S
GOING UPSTAIRS WITH
THE OTHERS.

SO I WAS
RIGHT! MY
OLD ENEMY
IS BEHIND
THIS!

OKAY!
LEAD
ON!

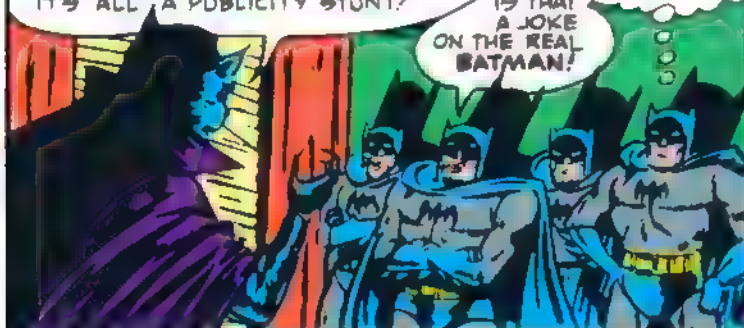


UPSTAIRS. IN THE CAT-WOMAN'S SITTING ROOM, FOUR FIGURES ROBED IN THE BATMAN'S DARK DENIM DISCUSS -CRIME-

LISTEN, MEN! DISGUISED AS THE BATMAN, YOU CAN GAIN ENTRY ANYWHERE! SAY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CRIMINAL. THEN ROB THE PLACE. IF YOU'RE NABBED, TELL 'EM YOU'RE FROM MARGUERITE TONE'S 'FAVORITE CHARACTER PARTY' AND IT'S ALL A PUBLICITY STUNT!

WONDER WHAT THE CAT-WOMAN WOULD THINK IF SHE KNEW I WAS THE REAL MECOV?

HA! IS THAT A JOKE ON THE REAL BATMAN!



ABRUPTLY, THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN AND ...

I'M LATE --- I HAD A FLAT TIRE AND WAS DELAYED!

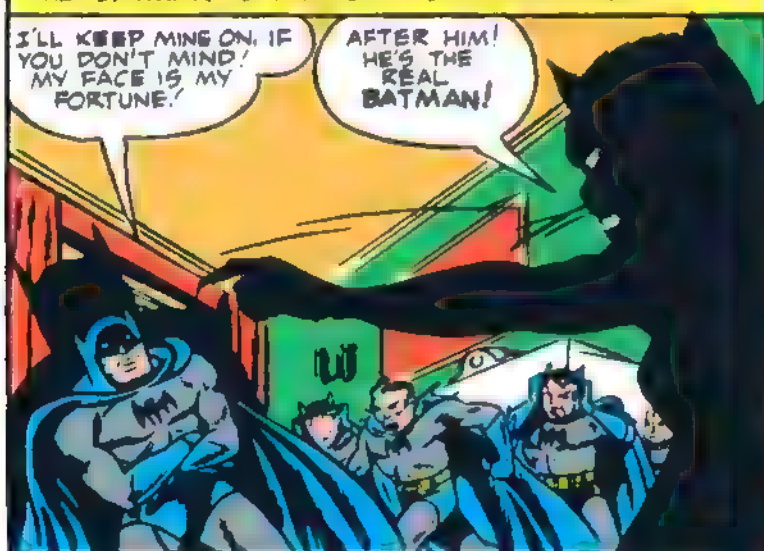
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THERE ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR OF YOU HERE! ONE OF YOU IS AN IMPOSTOR --- TAKE OFF YOUR MASKS!



THE BATMAN IS TRAPPED --- BUT UNDISMAYED!

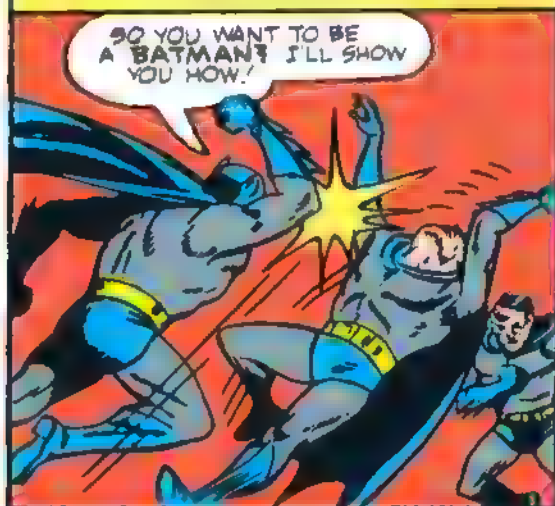
I'LL KEEP MINE ON. IF YOU DON'T MIND! MY FACE IS MY FORTUNE!

AFTER HIM! HE'S THE REAL BATMAN!



BUT LIKE A STEEL SPRING SUDDENLY RELEASED, THE CRIME-FIGHTER UNCOILS INTO ACTION!

SO YOU WANT TO BE A BATMAN? I'LL SHOW YOU HOW!



THEY'RE ALL MIXED UP BY THE COSTUMES! HERE I AM, MUGOS!



SUDDENLY, SWIFT AS A STRIKING PUMA, THE CRIME QUEEN'S SLIM HANDS STREAK OUT...

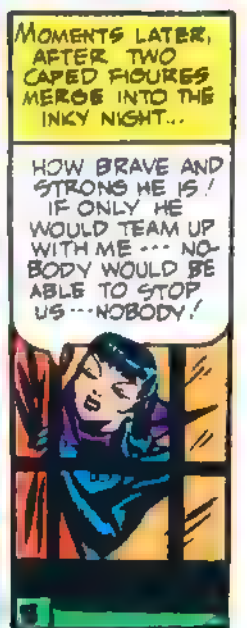
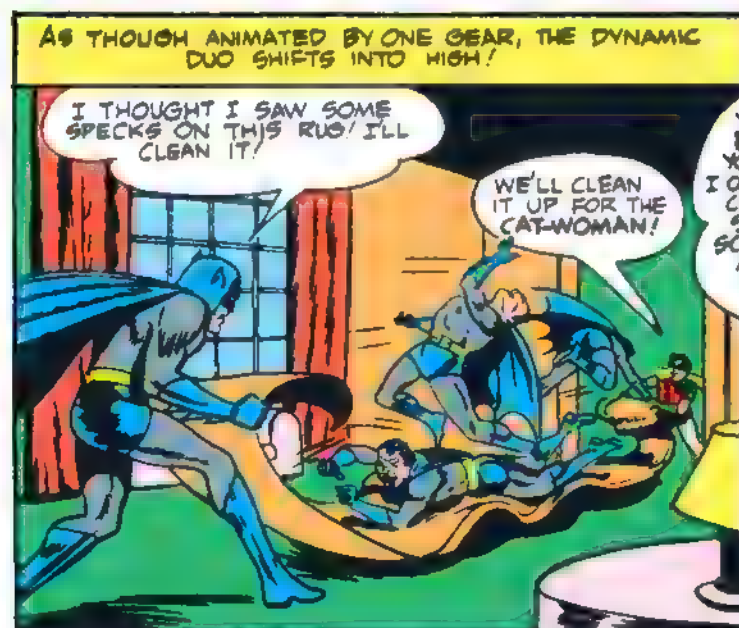
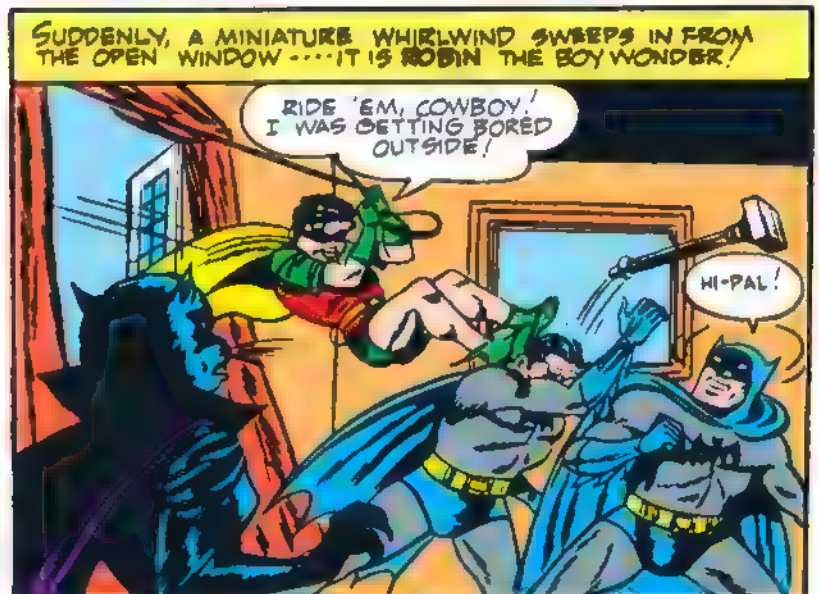
I'LL GET YOU MYSELF!



BUT BATMAN HAS SPIED CAT-WOMAN'S REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR --- AND MOVES WITH THE BLURRING SPEED OF LIGHT---

IS THAT NICE? TAKE A LITTLE NAP --- YOU'RE ALL EXCITED!





A WEEK PASSES, AND BRUCE WAYNE WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR THE CAT-WOMAN'S NEXT MOVE...

THAT WOMAN IS TOO QUIET, IT'S LIKE THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM!

MAYBE SHE GOT FRIGHTENED AND DECIDED TO END HER CRIME CAREER!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, THE CUNNING ADVENTURESS IS PLOTTING HER GREATEST COUP!

NOW, MARGUERITE, YOU MUST TELL US WHERE YOU HIRE YOUR SERVANTS! THEY'RE PERFECTLY GROOMED!

CERTAINLY!

LATER, AT THE ACE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE... IN THE BACK ROOM.

HURRY UP AND FINISH THOSE LESSONS. YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW HOW TO ACT AS SERVANTS. WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN ORDERS!

DINNER IS SOVED-- I MEAN SERVED!

I SEE YOUR PAWDON, MRS. FITSBUILT. THE MARSTER IS NOT MEAH! HA! HA! I'M LOINING!

PRESENTLY... UNUSPECTING SOCIETY OPENS ITS HOMES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CAT-WOMAN'S GANG!

MY NEW BUTLER... ISN'T HE MARVELOUS? MARGUERITE TONE RECOMMENDED HIM!

HE'S A BIT ECCENTRIC, BUT MARGUERITE TONE CAN'T BE WRONG! HE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER SERVANTS, IT'S A RELIEF!

AND, DURING A FESTIVE DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE OF ONE OF HIS FRIENDS, BRUCE WAYNE IS STARTLED TO SEE...

SILKY DAVIS! WHAT'S THAT CROOK DOING HERE AS A BUTLER?

POLITELY EXCUSING HIMSELF, BRUCE SURREPTITIOUSLY TRAILS THE BUTLER DOWNSTAIRS TO THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS...

OKAY, SILKY. WE'VE CLEANED EVERYTHING OUT OF THIS JOINT! THE CAT SAYS ALL THE PLACES ARE GONNA BE ROBBED TONIGHT!

I THOUGHT SO -- THE CAT-WOMAN AGAIN! SHE MUST HAVE PLANTED CROOKS IN ALL THE WEALTHY HOMES.

IN A FEW MINUTES, FOLLOW ME UPSTAIRS! YOU CAN ROB THOSE RICH MUGGS AT THE DINNER TABLE AND THEN JOIN THE CAT-WOMAN! AND DON'T FORGET TO FRISK THAT PLAY-BOY, BRUCE WAYNE. HE MUST BE CARRYING A BIG ROLL!

BUT AS SILKY DAVIS ENTERS THE CORRIDOR, AN IRON FIST CRASHES INTO HIS JAW!

NO TIME FOR CEREMONIES!

IN AN ADJOINING ROOM, AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE AS BRUCE BECOMES --THE BUTLER!

FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN MR. BRUCE WAYNE'S ABSENCE! GOOD THING I ALWAYS CARRY THIS MAKE-UP KIT WITH ME!

UPSTAIRS....

I BEG YOUR PARDON, MADAM--MR. WAYNE HAD TO LEAVE SUDDENLY! HE OFFERS HIS HUMBLEST APOLOGIES!

OH, THAT'S JUST LIKE BRUCE! HE'S PROBABLY BORED AS USUAL! DEAR ME, THAT BOY IS SO FLIGHTY!

PAUSING ONLY A BRIEF MOMENT TO SUMMON ROBIN, BRUCE RACES TO THE SERVANTS' QUARTERS AGAIN!

SH-H! I'VE GOT A BETTER PLAN! COME THIS WAY!

OKAY, SILKY! YOU KNOW THIS JOINT BETTER!

THE DISGUISED BRUCE WAYNE LEADS THE TRUSTING THIEVES TO A BASEMENT GAME ROOM.

HEY, SILKY--WHAT'RE WE DOING DOWN HERE?

YOU'LL FIND OUT!

SUDDENLY, DARKNESS DESCENDS BUT...THE CLICK OF A SWITCH BRINGS THE UNDERWORLD'S DREADED FOE INTO SIGHT--BATMAN!

IT WASN'T SILKY! THAT'S THE BATMAN!

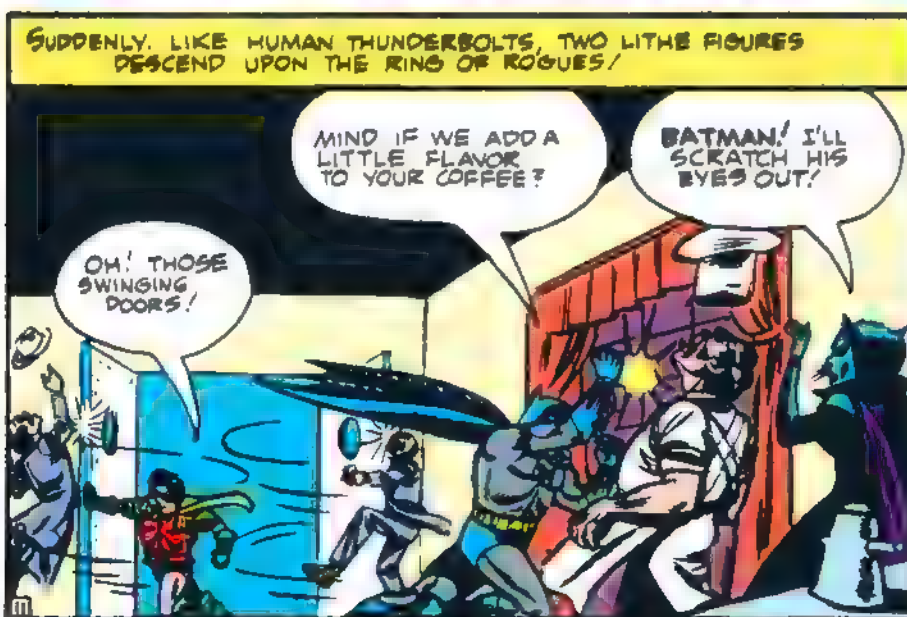
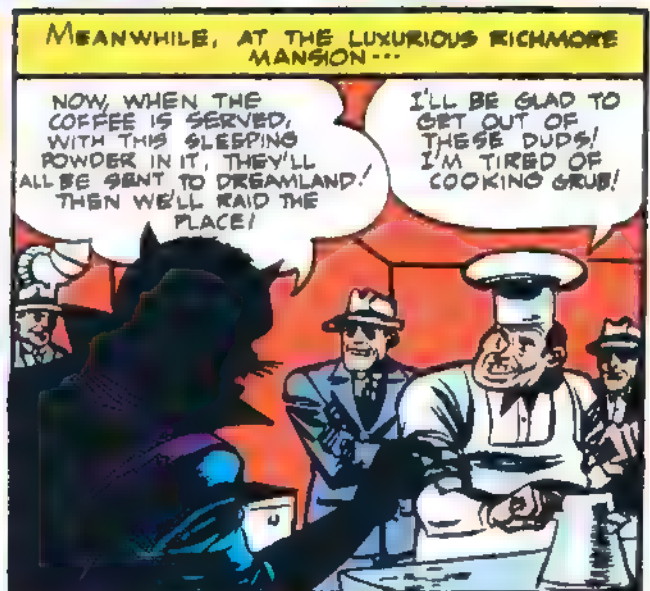
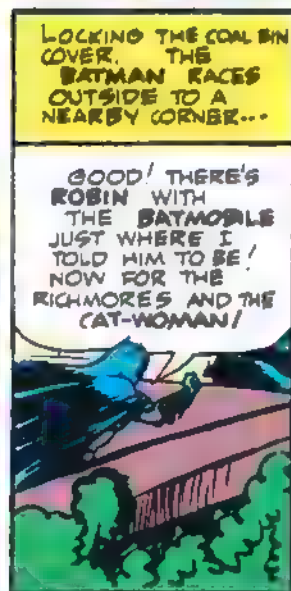
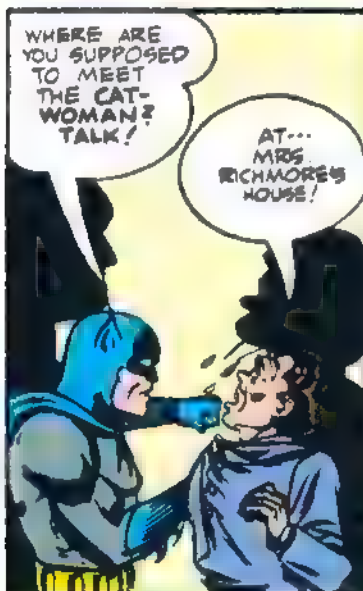
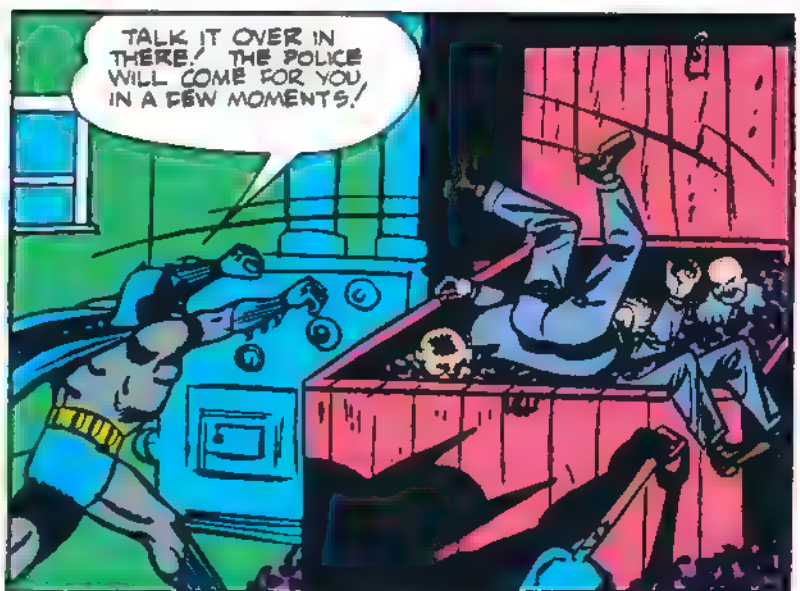
HE TRAPPED US--LET'S GET OUT!

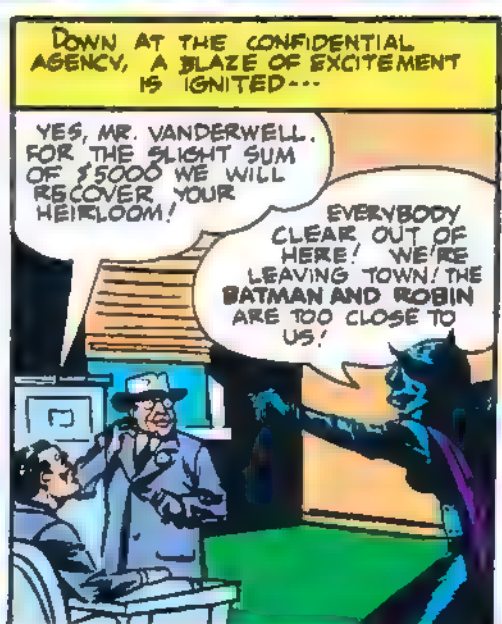
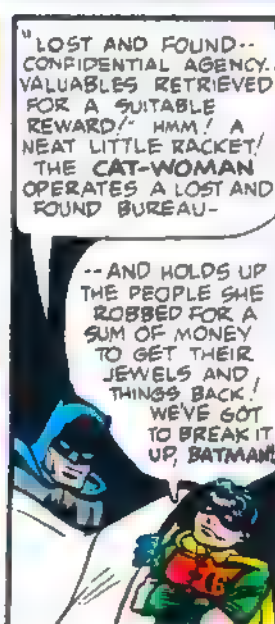
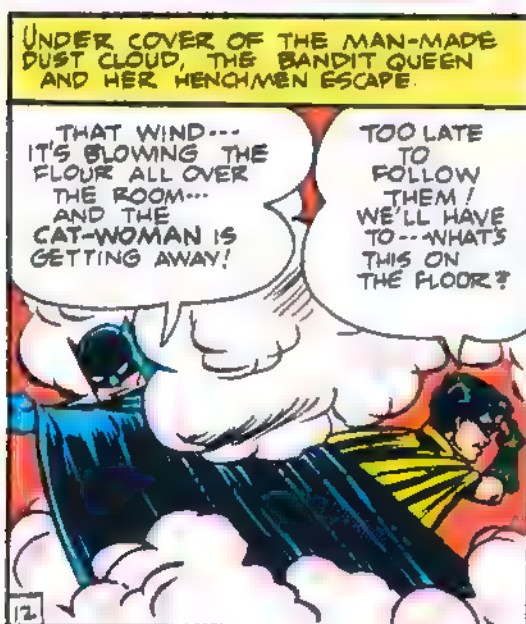
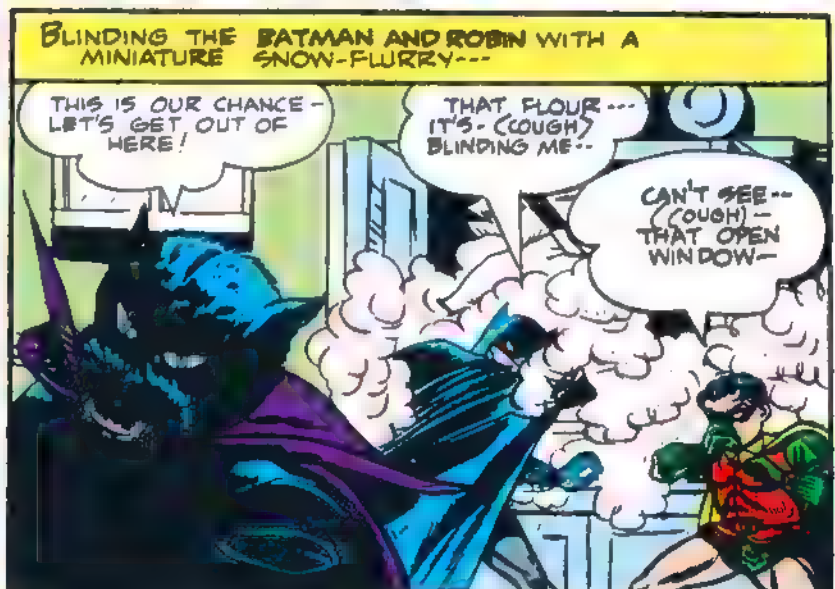
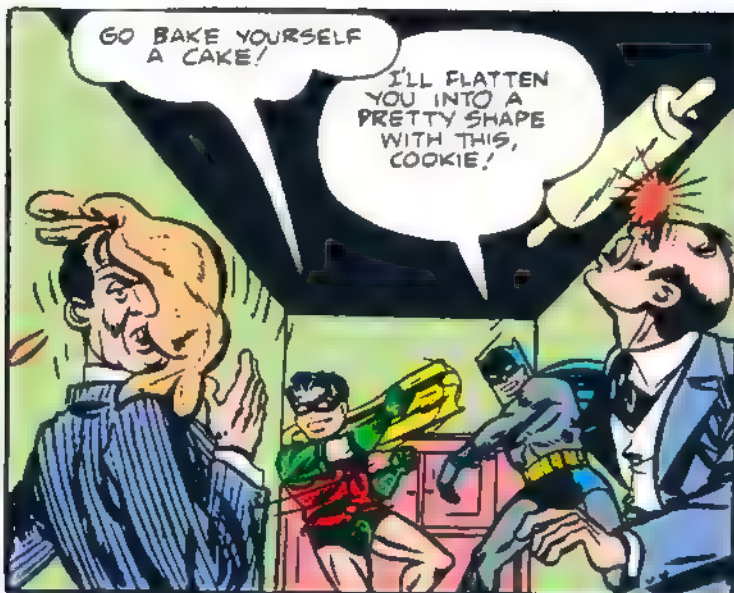
YOU WANT TO PLAY GAMES, DON'T YOU? HERE'S A WHOLE ROOMFUL OF THEM! ONLY THEY'RE NOT CROOKED!

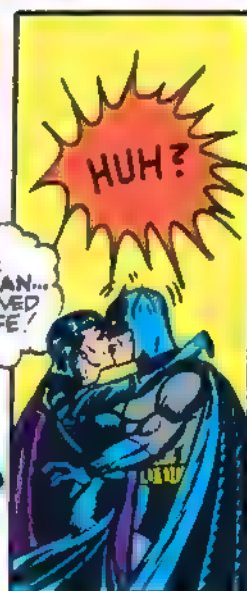
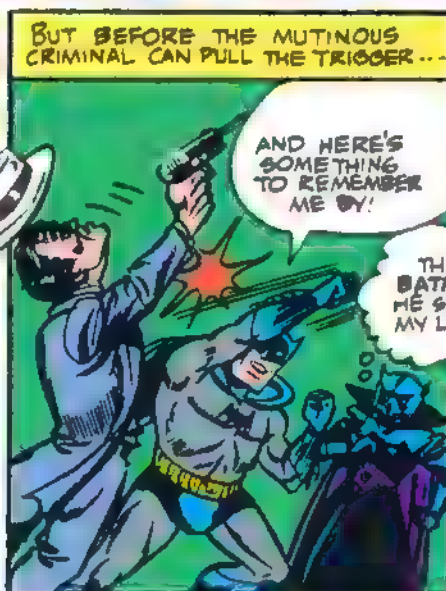
AWK!

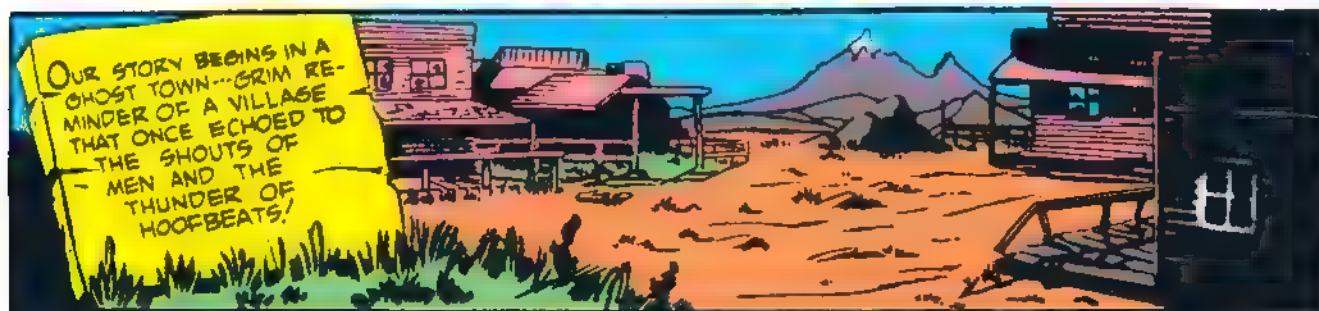
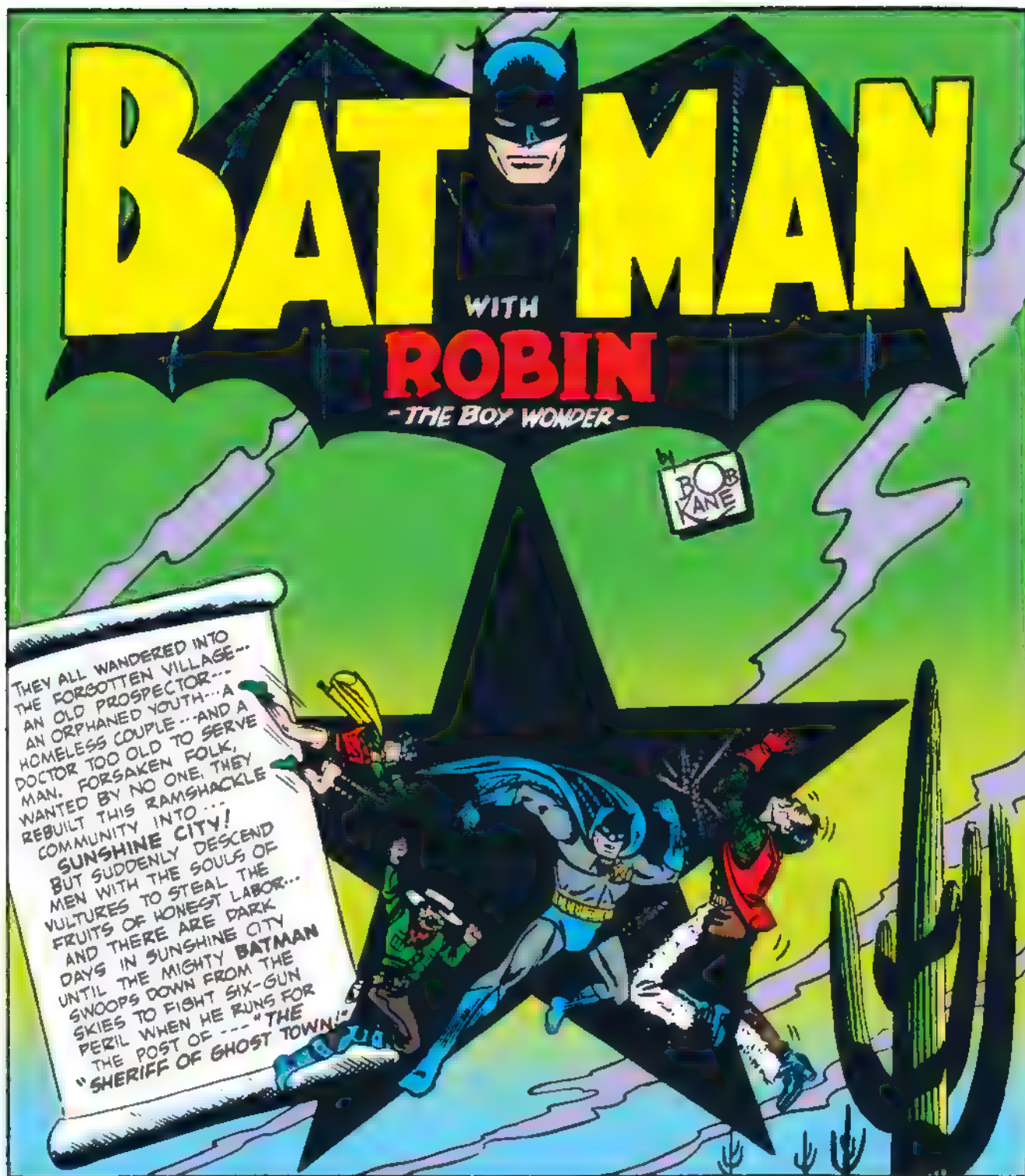
AWK!

HOW ABOUT SOME BASKETBALL?





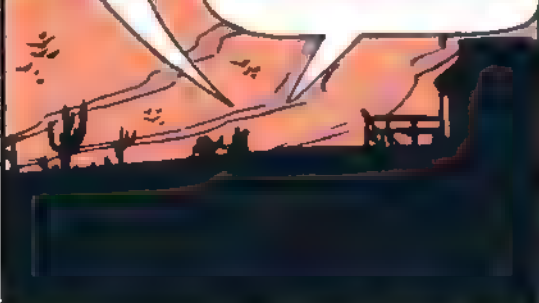




INTO THIS FORGOTTEN VILLAGE ONE DAY STRAY TWO DUSTY TRAVELERS...CACTUS TOM, AN OLD PROSPECTOR, AND YOUNG JOE JEFFERS, THE SON OF HIS DEAD PARTNER

CACTUS TOM, WHY IS THIS TOWN DESERTED?

IT'S CITIZENS WERE CURSED WITH GOLD FEVER, LAD! WHEN THEY HEARD OF RICHER STRIKES ELSEWHERE, THEY LIT OUT AND NEVER CAME BACK!



THERE'S STILL SOME GOLD HEREABOUTS, SON. WE'RE SETTLIN' DOWN TO MAKE A STAKE TO SEND YOU TO SCHOOL!

SCHOOL! AW...WELL...WHATEVER YOU SAY...



IN TIME, A FAMILY DRIVEN FROM A DUST-BOWL FARM JOINS THE PINK...

OUT OF GAS? SORRY... WE AIN'T GOT NONE... BUT WHY NOT START FARMIN' AGAIN HERE? THERE'S PLENTY OF GOOD LAND AND HOUSES GALORE!

BY GUM, I BELIEVE WE WILL! MY NAME'S SIMMONS---



A DOCTOR JOINS THE REBORN COMMUNITY---

I'M A DOCTOR, LOOKING FOR A PRACTICE -- TOO MANY YOUNGER DOCTORS WHERE I COME FROM!

A DOCTOR? GLORY BE! SIMMONS' WIFE IS SICK, AN! MY RHEUMATIZ IS SOMETHIN' FIERCE, AN!...



IN WEEKS TO COME, OTHER WAYFARERS SETTLE DOWN TO START LIFE ANEW---

PLENTY DOING IN THE CARPENTRY LINE--AN! AM I GLAD! HOW'RE YOU DOIN', BARBER?

NOT MUCH BUSINESS YET... BUT IT'LL COME!



GRATEFUL FOR THE PROSPERITY THAT HAS REWARDED THEIR LABORS, THE EX-WANDERERS CHRISTEN THE NAMELESS TOWN...

MOST OF US WAS OLD FOLKS, WITH CLOUDS OVER US. TILL WE RAN INTO CLEAR SKIES HERE! SINCE YUH MADE ME MAYOR, MEBBE I KIN SUGGEST A NAME FER OUR TOWN! HOW 'BOUT SUNSHINE CITY?

SUNSHINE CITY IT IS!

HOORAY!



BUT EVEN AS THE GARDEN OF EDEN HAD ITS SERPENT-- INTO SUNSHINE CITY ONE DAY RIDES "FIVE ACES" FROGEL, GAMBLER AND CROOK, WITH SOME CRONIES--

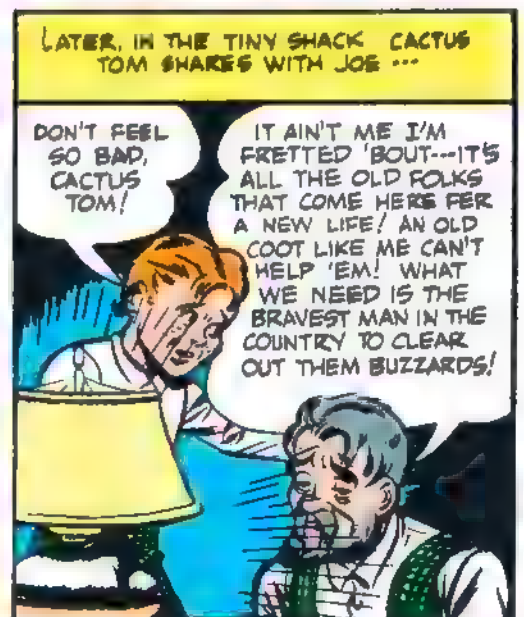
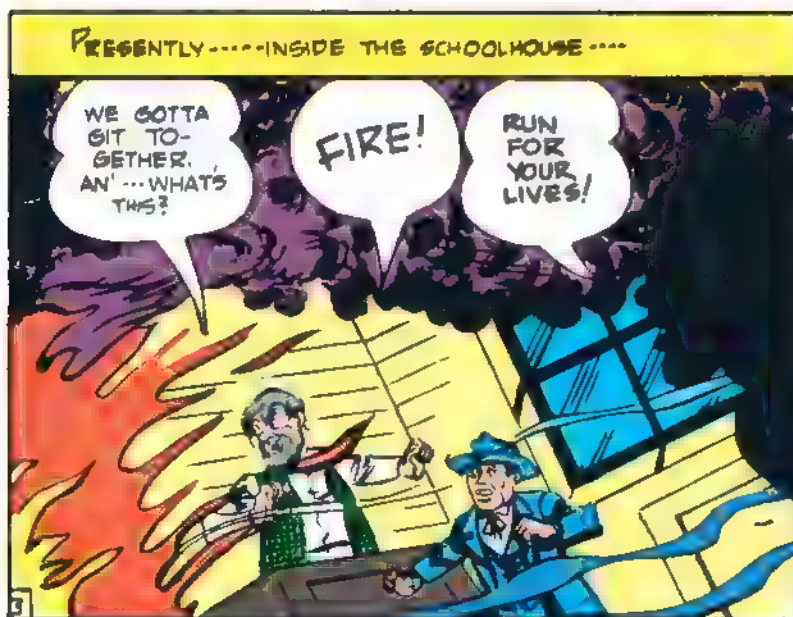
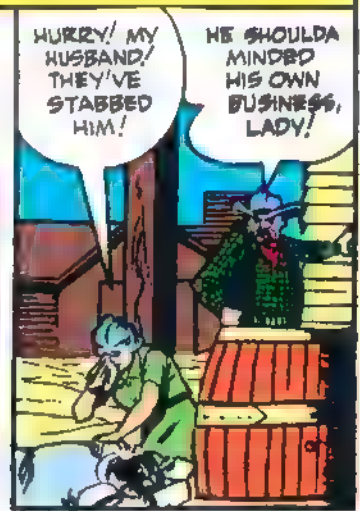
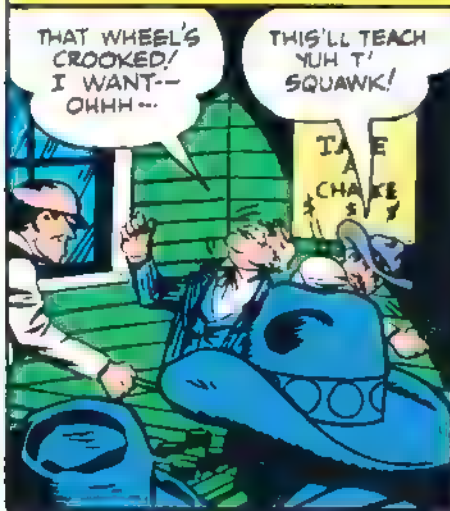
TAKE A LOOK, BULLET AN' BLACKIE! QUITE A BUSTLIN' LITTLE COMMUNITY WE GOT HERE!

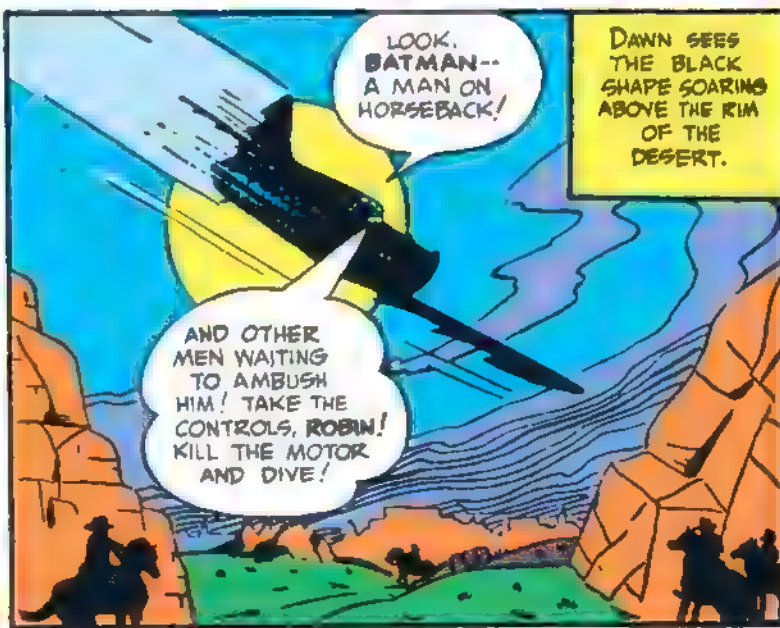
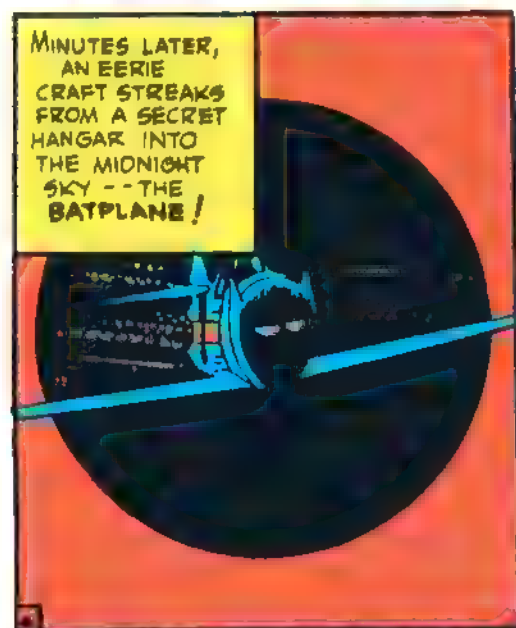
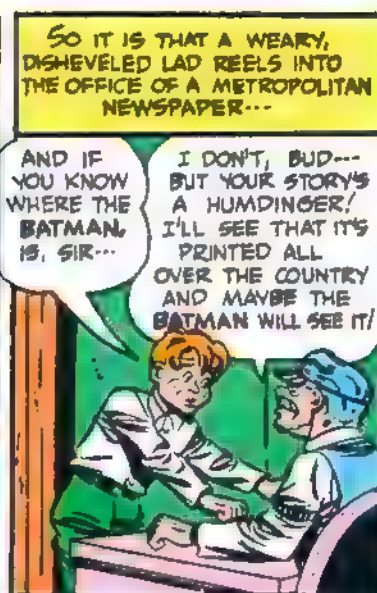
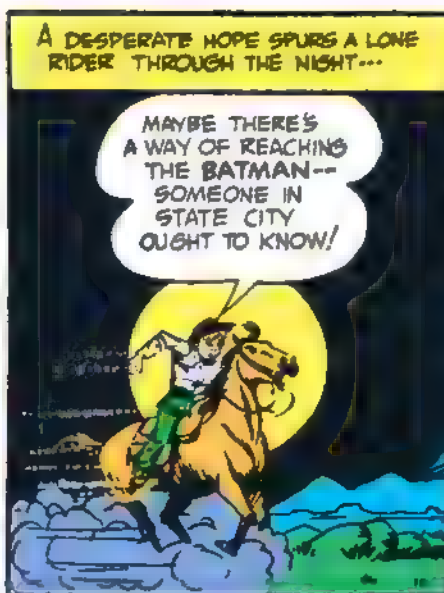
AND READY FOR US TO TAKE OVER!

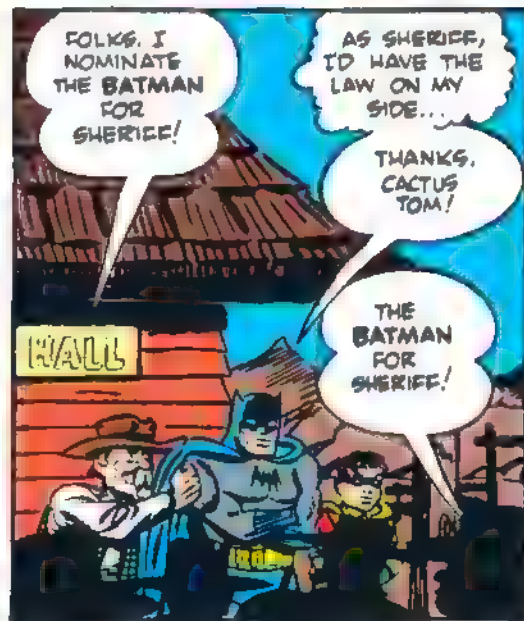
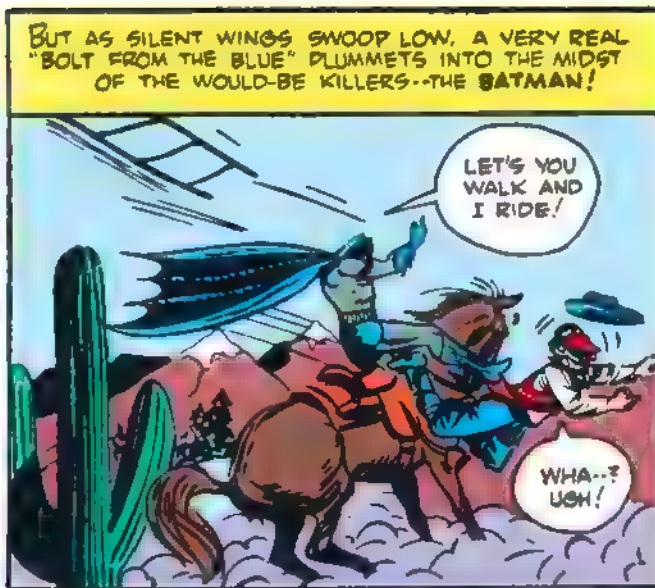
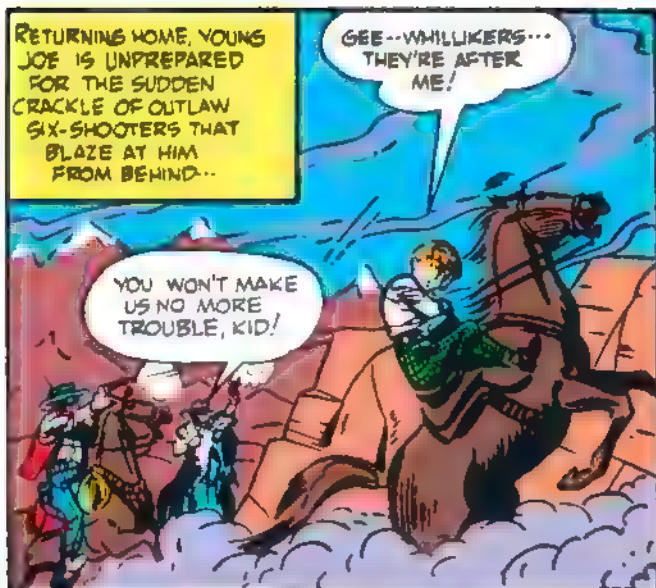
YEAH-- LET'S CALL IN THE REST OF THE BOYS, AN!...



VIOLENCE FLARES...AND BLAZING GUNS AND FLASHING KNIVES TAKE A WANTON TOLL OF LIFE AS FROGEL'S FOLLOWERS POUR INTO TOWN!







BUT UNFRIENDLY EYES WATCH THE GALA
SCENE FROM THE BALCONY OF FROGEL'S
LADY LUCK SALOON---

SO THAT'S THE
HIGH AND
MIGHTY BATMAN!
WE'LL SHOW HIM
HE DON'T COUNT
FER MUCH IN
THESE PARTS, EH,
BOYS?

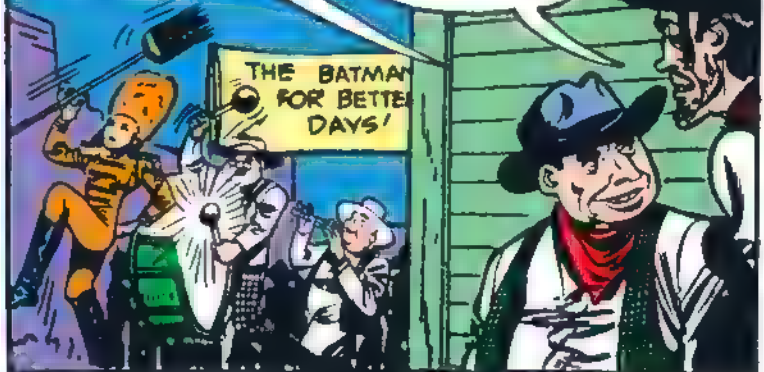
LEAVE IT TO US,
BOSS! WE'LL RUN
YOU FER SHERIFF
AN' BEAT HIM
TO A FRAZZLE!



WILD EXCITEMENT MARKS THE ONE-DAY ELECTION CAMPAIGN---A
FROLIC SOME RALLY SUCH AS NO GHOST TOWN HAS EVER SEEN!

THEY GOT PLENTY
VOTES TO ELECT
HIM!

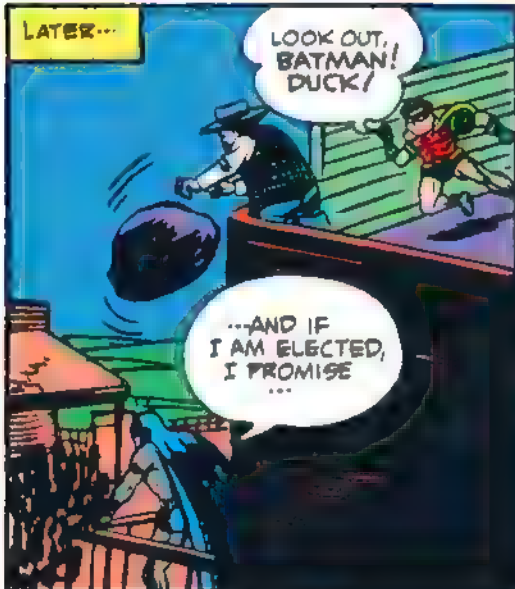
DON'T WORRY!
WE'LL FIX
HIM---
LISTEN!



LATER---

LOOK OUT,
BATMAN!
DUCK!

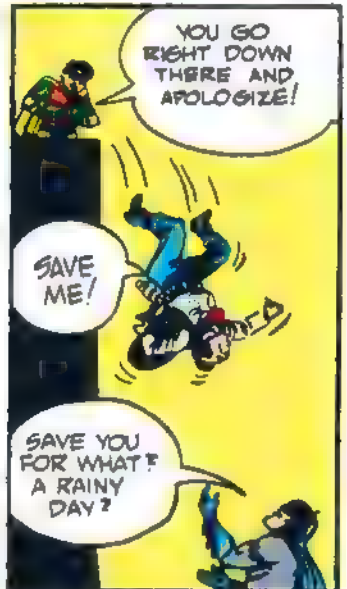
...AND IF
I AM ELECTED,
I PROMISE
...



HALP!

SHAME ON
YOU, THROWING
STONES BEHIND
PEOPLES
BACKS!

WHAT-
THANKS
ROBIN!



YOU GO
RIGHT DOWN
THERE AND
APOLOGIZE!

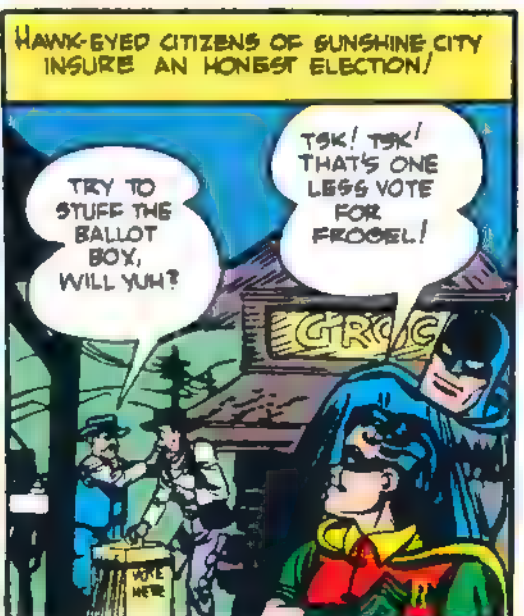
SAVE
ME!

SAVE YOU
FOR WHAT?
A RAINY
DAY?



HERE'S A
VOTE FOR
YOU,
FROGEL!

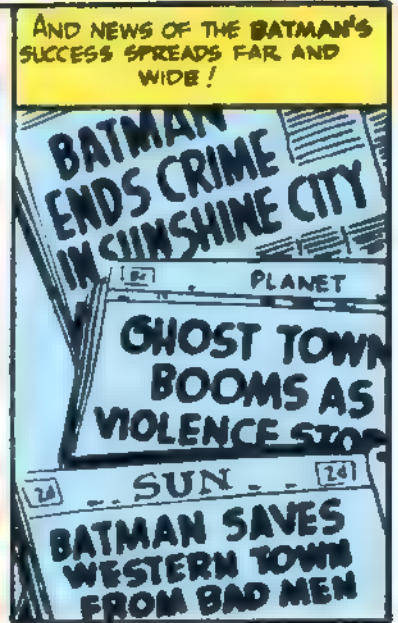
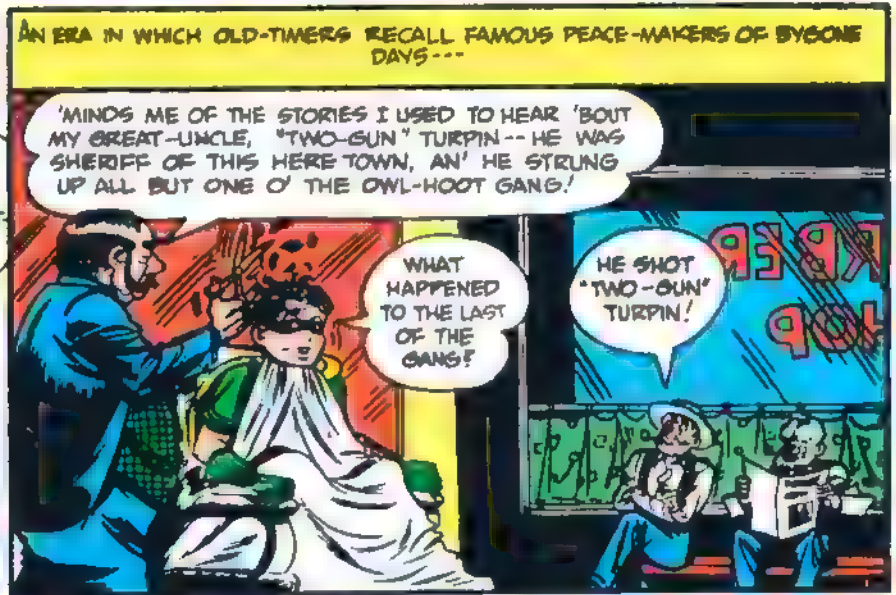
THAT
GUY AIN'T
HUMAN!



HAWK-EYED CITIZENS OF SUNSHINE CITY
INSURE AN HONEST ELECTION!

TRY TO
STUFF THE
BALLOT
BOX,
WILL YUH?

TSK! TSK!
THAT'S ONE
LESS VOTE
FOR
FROGEL!



FINALLY---

FELLER CITIZENS, OUR NEIGHBORIN' TOWN HAS AGREED T' LEND US MONEY FER STREETS AN' REAL ELECTRIC LIGHTS. NOW WE'LL GIT T'BE A REAL CITY. THANKS TO OUR NEW SHERIFF!

YIPPEE! PROSPERITY IS ON THE WAY!

THE TOWN BUZZES WITH PLANS OF A GRAND CELEBRATION---

CACTUS TOM IS A-GOIN' TO BRING THE MONEY FROM GILA GULCH IN A STAGECOACH!

THE WHOLE TOWN'S GONNA DRESS UP IN OLD-TIME COSTUMES!

IT'LL BE JUST LIKE FRONTIER DAYS!

WHILE IN THE HEART OF THE BADLANDS, OTHERS DISCUSS THE COMING EVENT WITH DEEP INTEREST-- KNOWN OUTLAWS, WHO FLED THE CITY WHEN THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TOOK OFFICE!

IMAGINE AN OLD GALOOT LIKE CACTUS TOM DRIVIN' THOUSANDS O' DOLLARS ACROSS THE DESERT IN A STAGECOACH!

WE DON'T HAVE TO IMAGINE IT, BLACKIE- WE'LL BE RIGHT ON HAND TO SEE IT!

AN' WITH OUR SHOOTIN' IRONS READY!

AS THE GREAT DAY DAWNS---

YOU'RE RIDING THE COACH WITH CACTUS TOM, DEPUTY! REMEMBER, THE GUNS JUST FOR SHOW! AND THE CARTRIDGES ARE BLANKS!

JUST PART OF THE MASQUERADE, EH, BATMAN...I MEAN CHIEF!

THAT MORNING'S SUN SHINES UPON SUCH A PICTURESQUE SIGHT AS THE DESERT WAS NOT SEEN IN HALF A CENTURY----

FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! MY BIGGEST STRIKE...AN' ALL FER SUNSHINE CITY!

I ALWAYS WANTED TO RIDE ON ONE OF THESE!

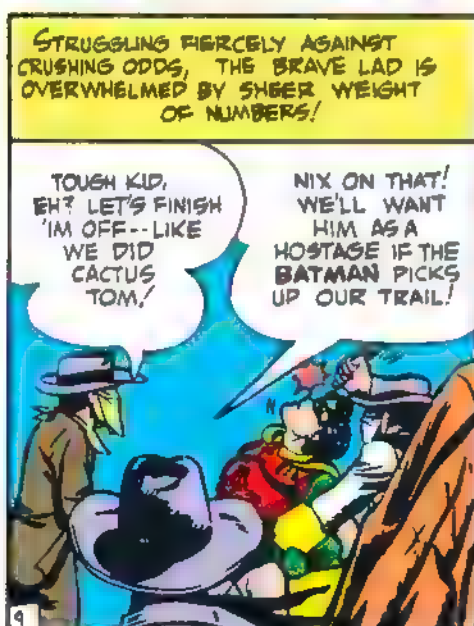
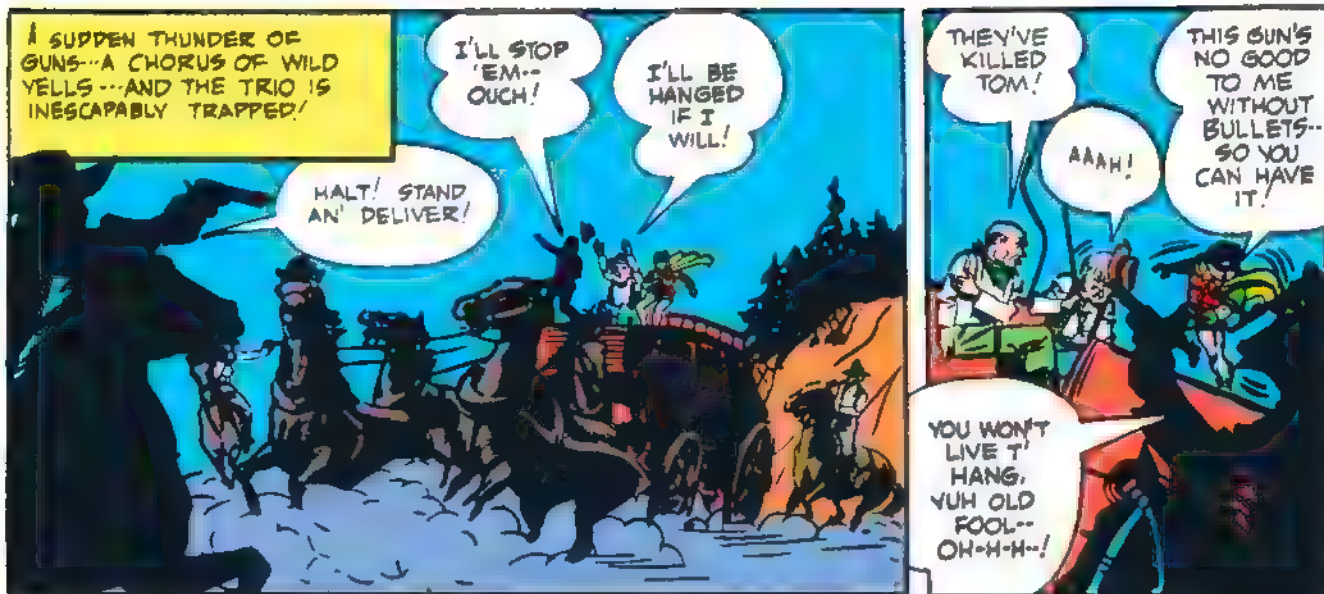
'FORE THE BATMAN CAME, WE WOULDN'T DARE CART MONEY AROUND LIKE THIS!

IT'S SAFE ENOUGH NOW, SINCE FROGELS PALS LIT OUT FER OTHER PARTS!

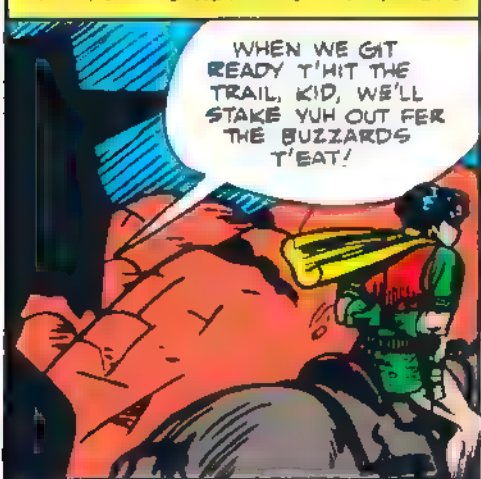
SAFE! LET'S LOOK AHEAD-- TO WHERE THE ANCIENT COACH'S PATH TWISTS BETWEEN STEEP WALLS OF ROCK!

WE'RE REALLY HELPIN' 'EM WITH THEIR SHOW-- THIS IS LIKE THE OLD DAYS, TOO!

GIT READY, BOYS! I KIN HEAR 'EM!



CAUTIOUSLY, ONE BY ONE, ROBIN WORKS THE CARTRIDGES FREE OF THE BELT LOOPS, LEAVING A SHINING TRAIL THAT PASSES UNNOTICED BY HIS CAPTORS.



MEANWHILE, BACK IN SUNSHINE CITY, THE DESCENDANTS OF SUN-FIGHTING PIONEERS HAVE DECKED THEMSELVES OUT TO RESEMBLE THEIR FAMOUS ANCESTORS...

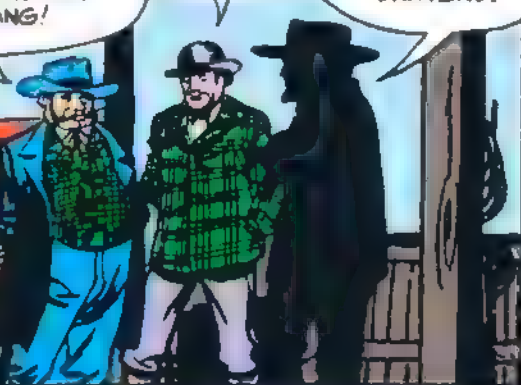
MAIL TO CACTUS TOM THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IN SUNSHINE CITY-



RECKON I LOOK LIKE JEST ABOUT AS TOUGH AS MY GREAT-UNCLE, TWO-GUN TURPIN, WHO WIPED OUT THE OWL-HOOT GANG!

YOU MEAN, ALL BUT THE ONE WHO WIPED HIM OUT!

ME, I RECKON I'D MAKE AS GOOD A PEACE OFFICER AS MY GRANDPOP, "DEAD-EYE" DANVERS!



A RUMBLE OF WHEELS, A DRUMMING OF HOOF-- AND THE STAGECOACH COMES INTO VIEW, RACING AHEAD OF A CLOUD OF ALKALI DUST!



SOMETHING WRONG...ONE OF THEM'S LYING DOWN--AND ROBIN IS MISSING!



HERE THEY COME! LET'S GIVE OLD CACTUS TOM A SIX-GUN SALUTE!

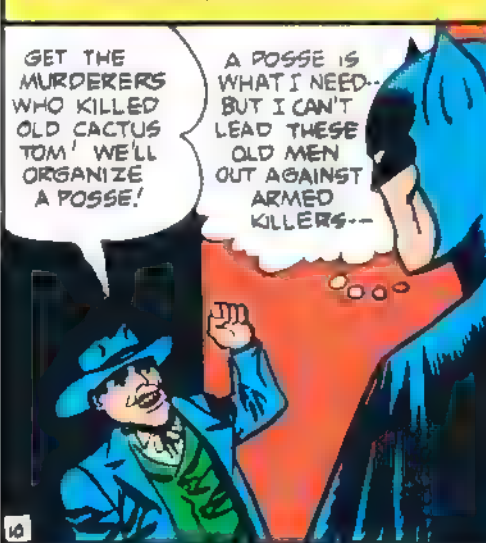
THE MERRYMAKERS FALL SILENT AS THE STUNNING NEWS OF THE TRAGEDY REACHES THEM--

BANDITS! THEY KILLED TOM--WOUNDED ME--KIDNAPPED ROBIN AN' GOT AWAY WITH THE MONEY!

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN? WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?

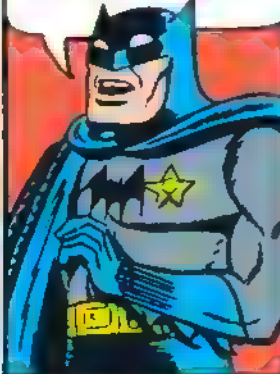


SWIFTLY THEIR HOLIDAY MOOD CHANGES TO ONE OF BLACK FURY--



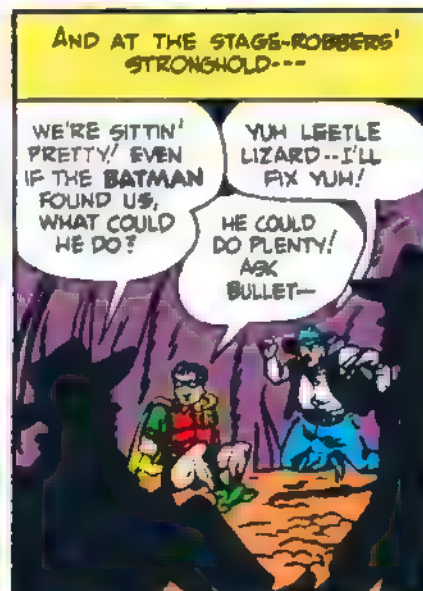
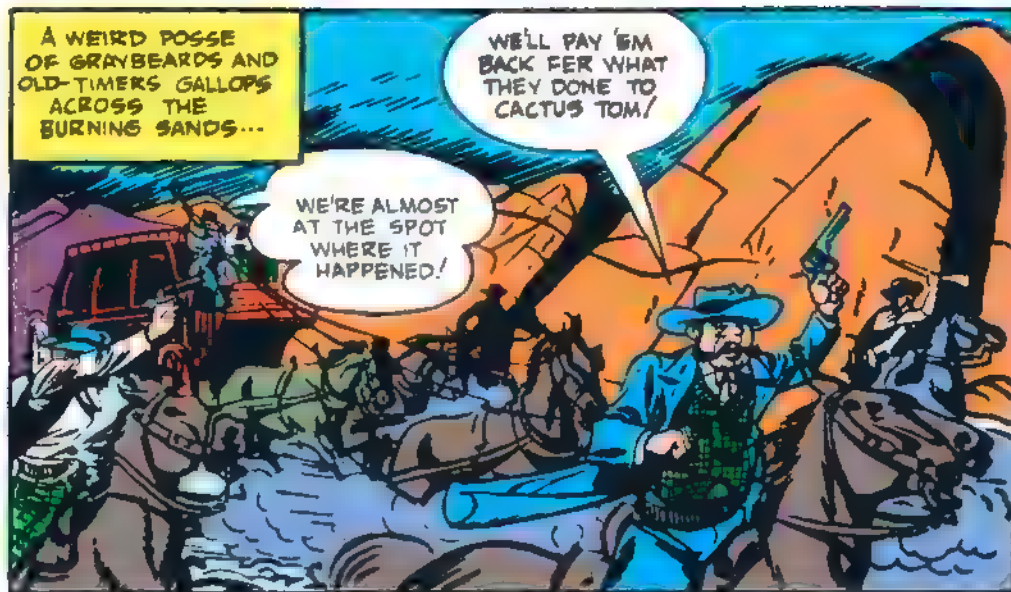
A POSSE IS WHAT I NEED-- BUT I CAN'T LEAD THESE OLD MEN OUT AGAINST ARMED KILLERS--

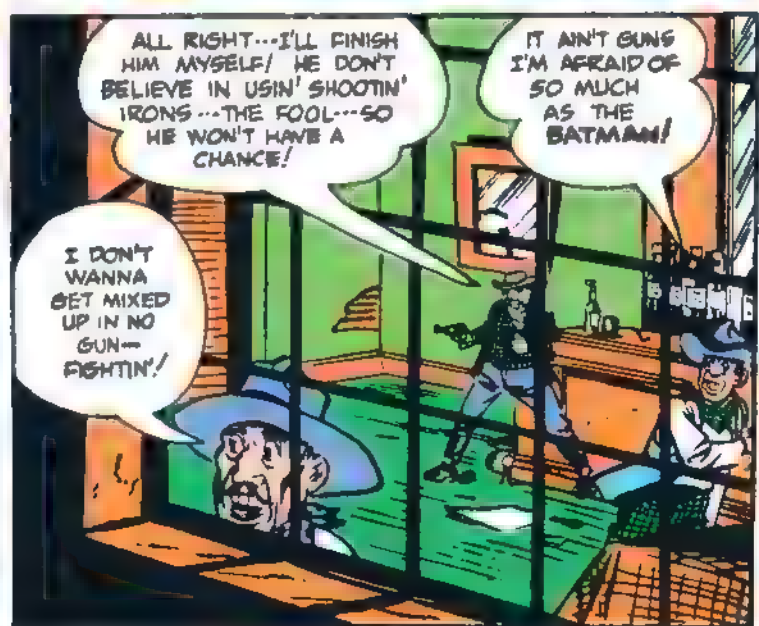
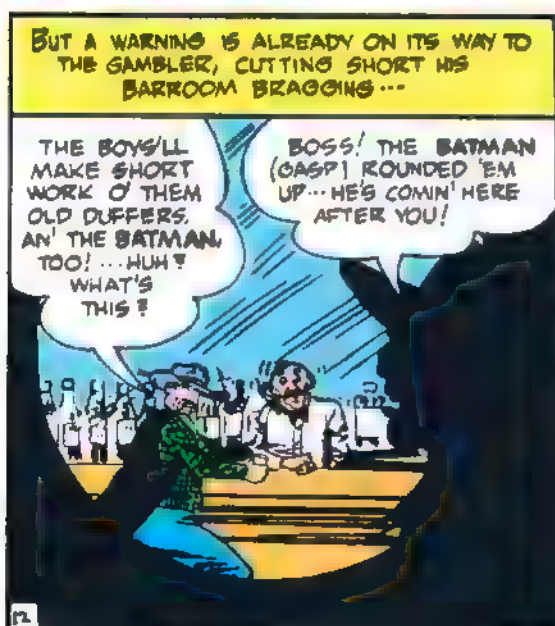
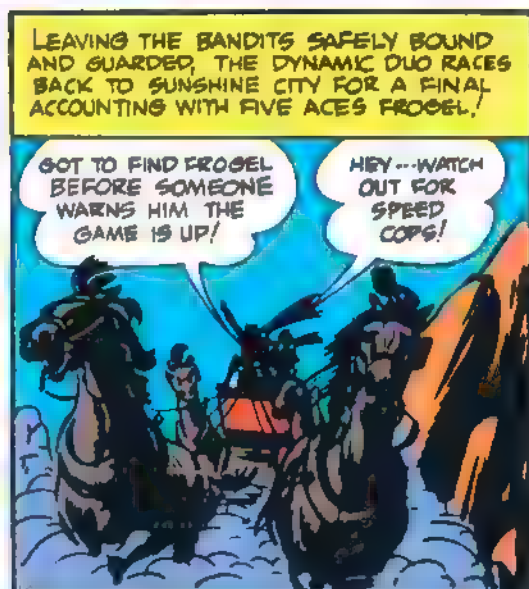
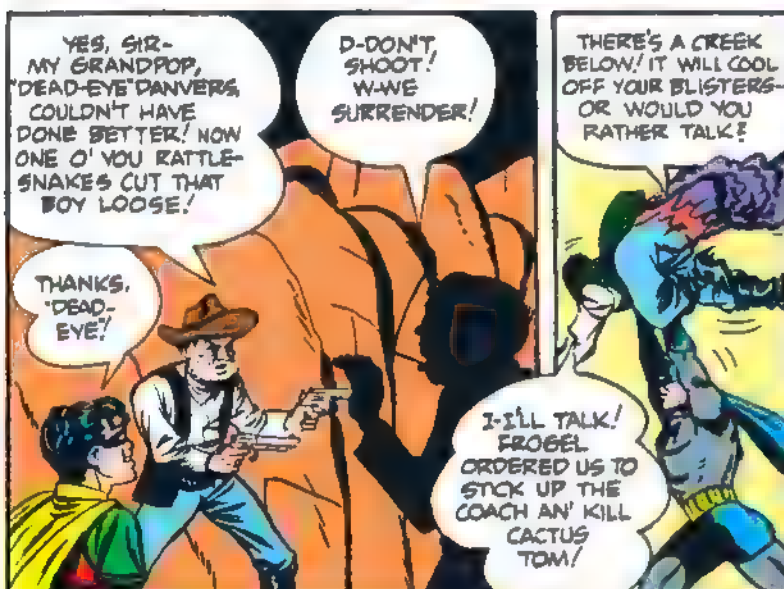
I'M GOING AFTER THEM ALONE! THOSE BANDITS ARE DANGEROUS! THEY'LL BE HIDDEN IN THE HILLS, WHERE THEY'LL BE HARD TO GET AT! YOU'VE ELECTED ME SHERIFF, AND IT'S MY JOB!

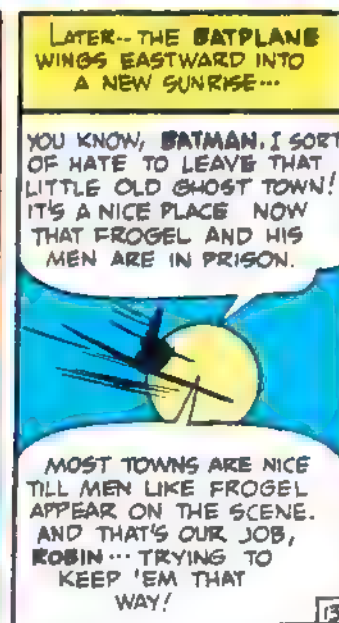
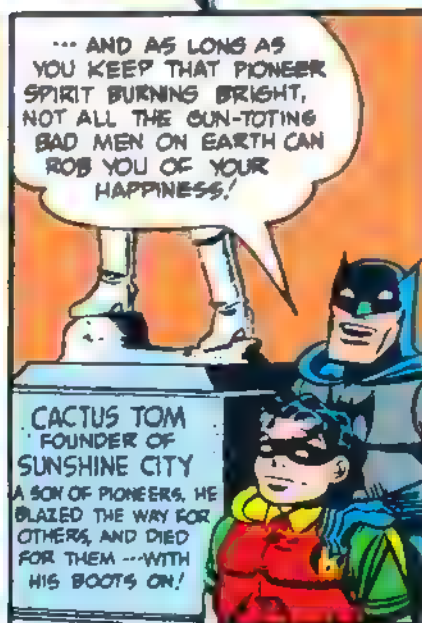
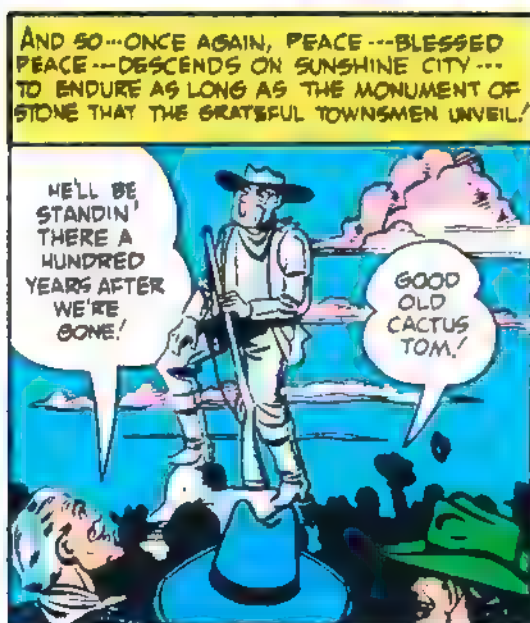


BUT A MIRACLE SEEMS TO HAVE TRANSFORMED THE OLD-TIMERS--AS IF THE SPIRIT OF THEIR FIGHTING ANCESTORS HAS COME TO LIFE WITHIN THEM.











The **BATMAN**

No. 63 **MEET MR. BAFFLE!**



Detective

MAY

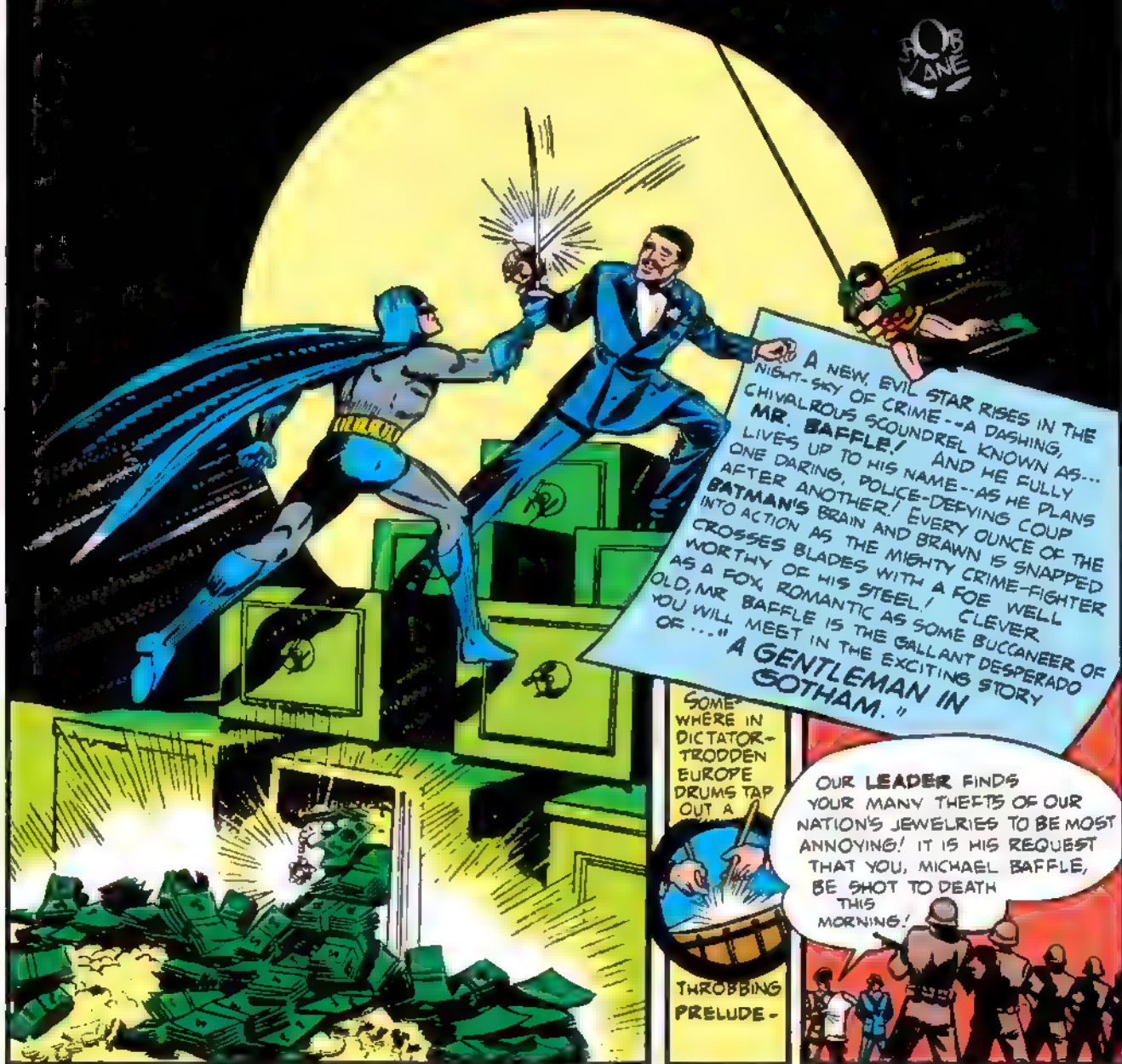
COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

JOE
KANE



A NEW, EVIL STAR RISES IN THE NIGHT-SKY OF CRIME--A DASHING, CHIVALROUS SCOUNDREL KNOWN AS... MR. BAFFLE! AND HE FULLY LIVES UP TO HIS NAME--AS HE PLANS ONE DARING, POLICE-DEEPIING COUP AFTER ANOTHER! EVERY OUNCE OF BATMAN'S BRAIN AND BRAUN IS SNAPPED INTO ACTION AS THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER CROSSES BLADES WITH A FOE WELL WORTHY OF HIS STEEL! CLEVER AS A FOX, ROMANTIC AS SOME BUCCANEER OF OLD, MR BAFFLE IS THE GALLANT DESPERADO YOU WILL MEET IN THE EXCITING STORY OF..." A GENTLEMAN IN GOTHAM. "

SOMEWHERE IN
DICTATOR-
TRODDEN
EUROPE
DRUMS TAP
OUT A

THROBBING
PRELUDE -

OUR LEADER FINDS
YOUR MANY THEFTS OF OUR
NATION'S JEWELRIES TO BE MOST
ANNOYING! IT IS HIS REQUEST
THAT YOU, MICHAEL BAFFLE,
BE SHOT TO DEATH
THIS
MORNING!



THE
BLINDFOLD
FOR THE
EYES!

BLINDFOLD?
YOU WOULDN'T
WANT TO
DEPRIVE ME OF
SEEING THE SUN-
RISE FOR THE
LAST TIME!



COOL, COMPOSED, THE
PRISONER LOOKS
SERENELY AT DOOM
PEERING FROM FIVE
METAL-COLD EYES!

READY...
TAKE
AIM!...

THE COMMANDER SNAPS DOWN
HIS SWORD. THE MEN FIRE---
THE PRISONER CLUTCHES HIS
BREAST AND BEGINS TO CRUMPLE.



FIRE!

SILENCE NOW---AND ON THE COLD GROUND IS
SPRAWLED A STILL FIGURE SEEMINGLY
SMOTHERED IN ETERNAL SLEEP!



MARCH!

A MINUTE CRAWLS BY...
TWO MINUTES---AND
THEN---

ALL THIS IS SUCH
A BEASTLY NUISANCE!
WASN'T WORTH IT,
REALLY! GOT MY
CLOTHES FILTHY WITH
DUST!



OH, WELL...
MUST TAKE THE
GOOD WITH THE
BAD. THAT'S LIFE,
I GUESS!



AND IN THE BARRACKS---

AH, IT WAS
WELL WORTH PUTTING
BLANKS IN OUR
GUNS IN EXCHANGE
FOR THESE
STOLEN JEWELS
BAFFLE GAVE US!

LET US
HOPE THE
COMMANDER
NEVER
FINDS
OUT!



AND THE COMMANDER---

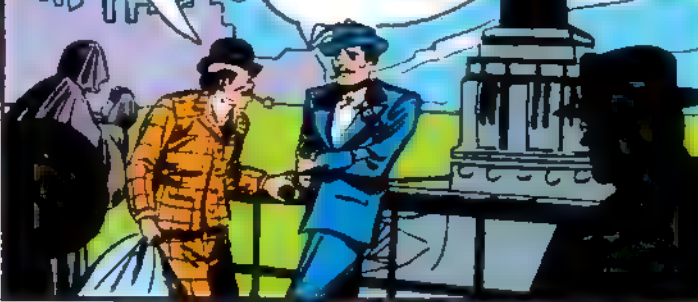
I HOPE MY MEN
NEVER FIND OUT I
RECEIVED THESE JEWELS
FROM BAFFLE FOR NOT
INSPECTING THE
RIFLES!

IT IS ONE MONTH LATER... A SHIP BEARING FLEEING REFUGEES APPROACHES THE GREAT GOTHAM CITY HARBOR...



AH, IT IS GOOD TO LEAVE THE TROUBLED OLD WORLD BEHIND. THIS WILL BE MY NEW COUNTRY, MY NEW HOME! YOU, MISTER. WHAT WAS YOUR COUNTRY...BACK THERE?

ANYWHERE I COULD LAY MY HEAD! I'M A SORT OF WANDERER--A NOMAD OF THE CONTINENTS!



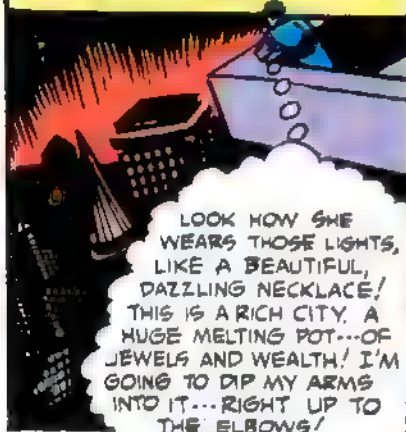
AH, BUT NOW YOU CAN REST...HERE--IN AMERICA. LAND OF LIBERTY--A LAND THAT IS FREE...THAT STATUE OF LIBERTY--

FREE? MMM...YES--

I WONDER HOW FREE IT IS WITH ITS WEALTH? THAT'S WHAT INTERESTS ME MOST!



THAT VERY NIGHT...HIGH UP ON THE ROOF OF THE GREAT STATE BUILDING, GLOWING EYES ROVE OVER THE TWINKLING CARPET OF GLITTERING LIGHT THAT IS GOTHAM CITY...



LOOK HOW SHE WEARS THOSE LIGHTS, LIKE A BEAUTIFUL, DAZZLING NECKLACE! THIS IS A RICH CITY. A HUGE MELTING POT...OF JEWELS AND WEALTH! I'M GOING TO DIP MY ARMS INTO IT...RIGHT UP TO THE ELBOWS!

SUDDENLY---

OKAY, EGG-HEAD, NOBODY UP HERE BUT US!

KEEP A LOOKOUT ANYWAY, FISH-EYES. LIFT 'EM, MISTER! GRAB A HUNK O'SKY!

IF THIS IS A HOLDUP, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SORELY DISAPPOINTED.



FLAT! ALL HE'S GOT IN HIS POCKETS IS DUST!

OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK! A GUY CAN'T EVEN MAKE AN HONEST LIVIN' NO MORE!



I PERCEIVE YOU GENTLEMEN ARE IN THE SAME LEAKY BOAT I AM IN!

YOU GOT LIGHT FINGERS, BUD! YOU MUST KEEP IN PRACTICE TO GET 'EM THAT WAY, EH?

HEY! YA LIFTED MY WALLET! YA CROOK! YA CAN'T TRUST NOBODY THESE DAYS!



I KEEP MY HAND IN A FEW PIES! NOW, MY BROTHERS--IN-CRIME, IF YOU WILL LISTEN SHARPLY, I THINK I CAN INTEREST YOU IN A PROPOSITION!



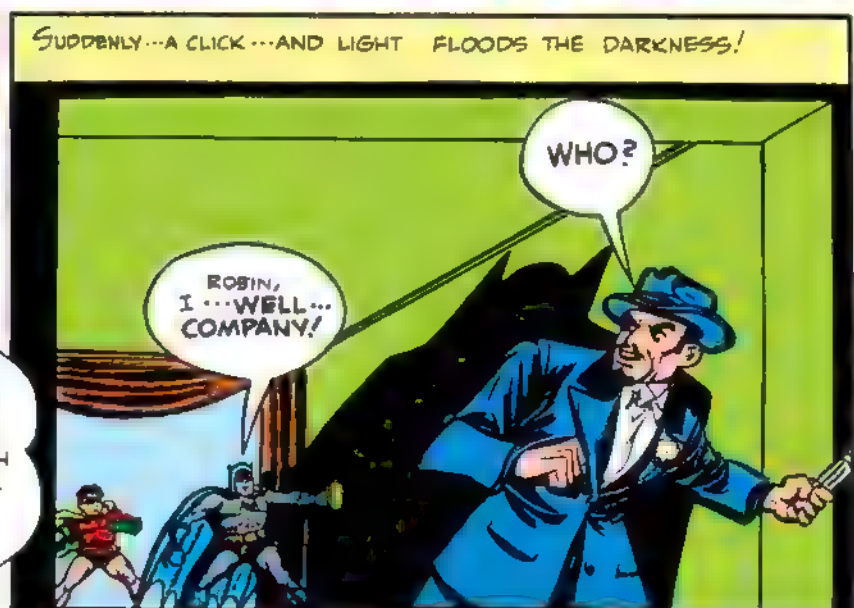
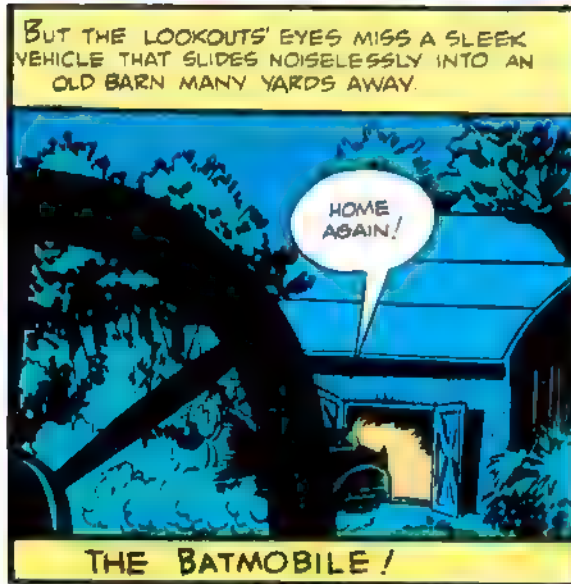
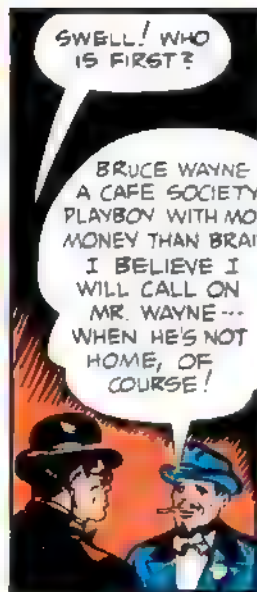
AFTER A FEW WORDS---

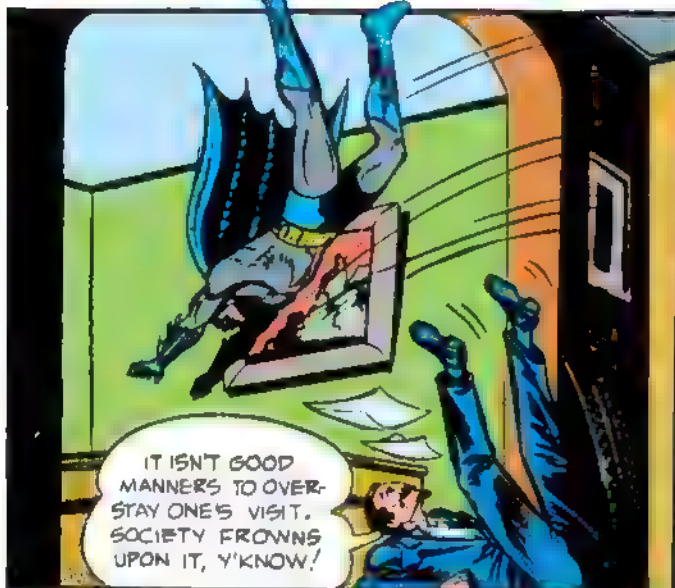
YOU WANT US TO THROW IN WITH YOU?

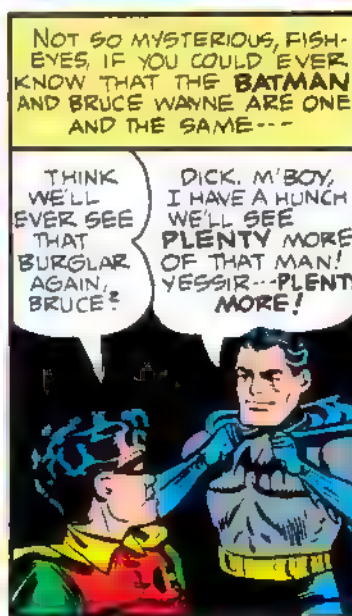
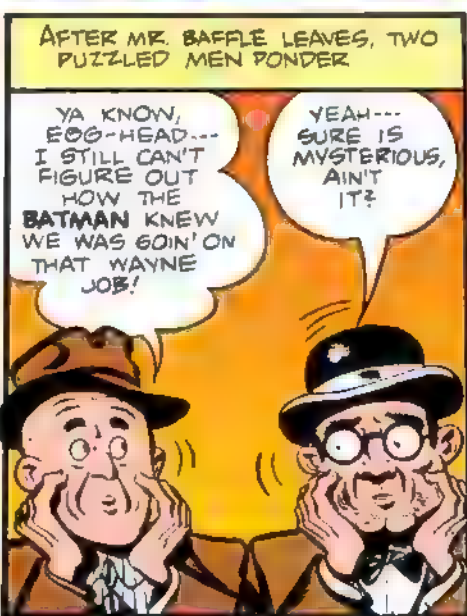
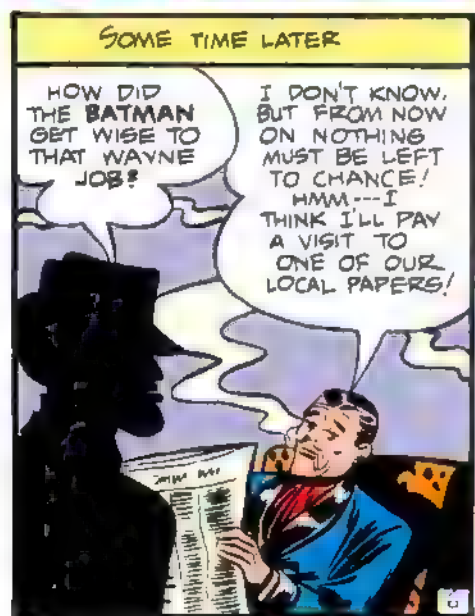
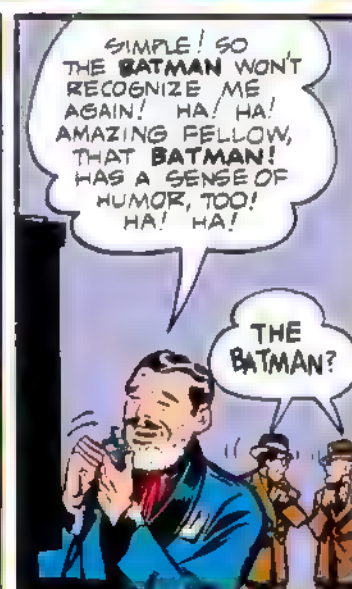
EXACTLY! I'LL FIGURE OUT PLANS, CASE JOBS! I'M RATHER TALENTED THAT WAY, Y'KNOW! YOU'VE NOTHING TO LOSE, SO WHAT SAY?

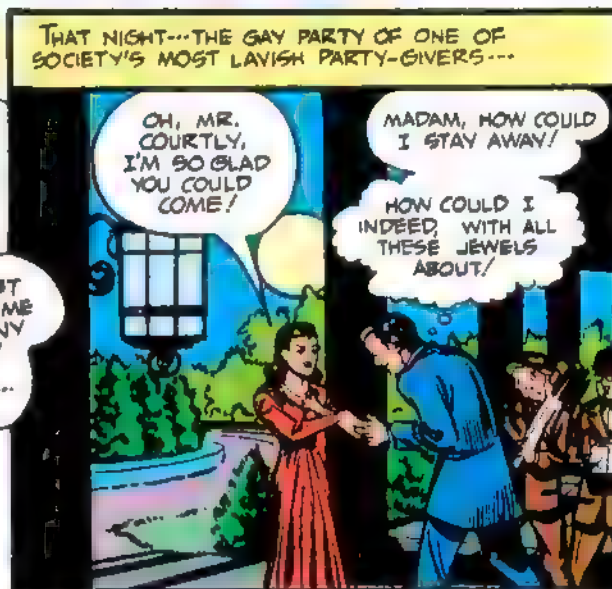
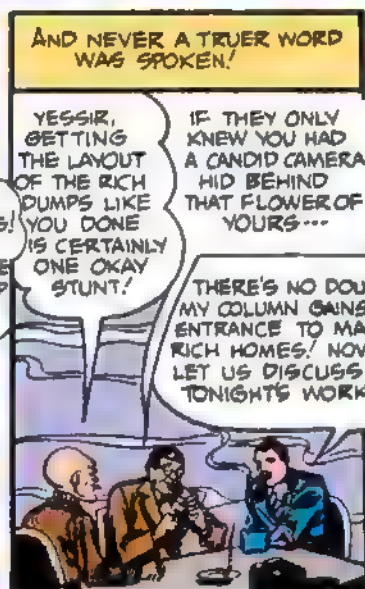
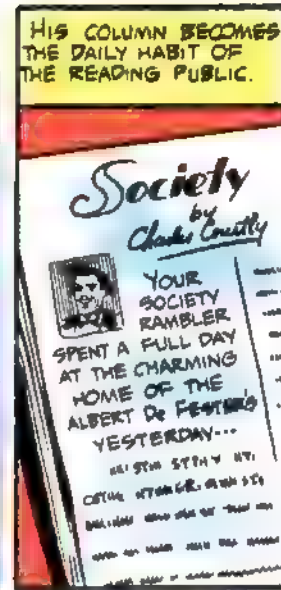
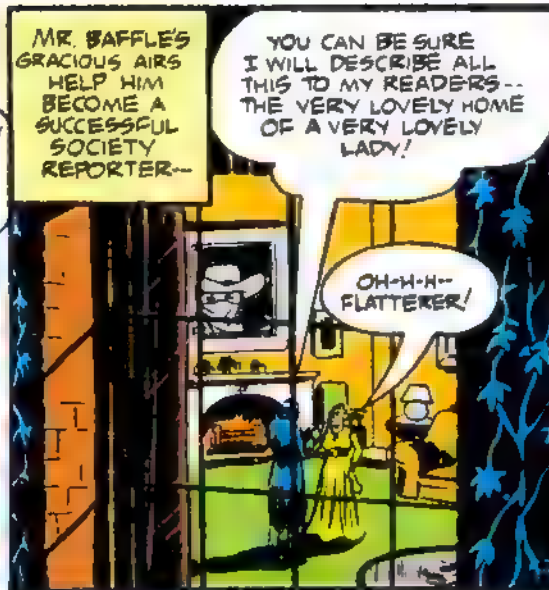
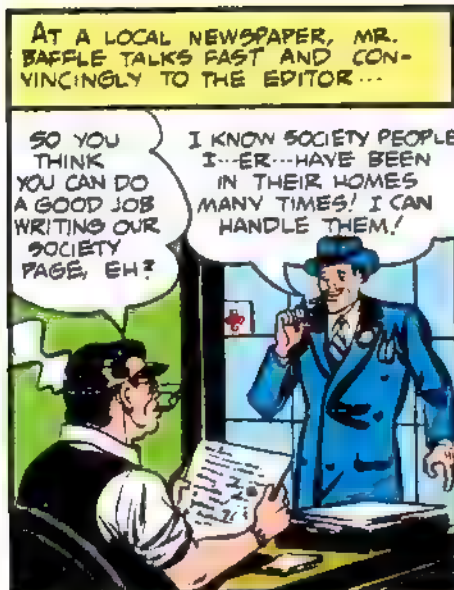
COUNT ME IN!











THE IDEA MEETS WITH THE COMPLETE APPROVAL OF THE GUESTS!

LEAD US TO THOSE BATHING SUITS!

BUT WHERE WILL WE PUT OUR VALUABLES?

IN MY SAFE, OF COURSE, I'LL HAVE TWO BUTLERS STAND GUARD IN CASE THAT SOCIETY BURGLAR SHOULD TAKE IT IN HIS HEAD TO APPEAR!

AND SO--- SOME TIME LATER...

DEAR LADY, I REALLY MUST GO NOW IF I EXPECT TO WRITE THIS STORY UP FOR THE MORNING EDITION!

BE SURE TO GIVE MY PARTY PLENTY OF PUBLICITY!

WELL, MY "PHOTOGRAPHERS," IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF WE'LL RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE! LET'S GO!

MEANWHILE, BRUCE QUITS THE MERRYMAKING---

THE BATMAN'S PREMONITION PROVES CORRECT, FOR AS THE DYNAMIC DUO STEALS TO THE LIBRARY---

YOU FEEL UNEASY ABOUT ALL THOSE JEWELS IN THAT SAFE?

IT'S TOO PERFECT A SET-UP FOR THAT SOCIETY BURGLAR TO RESIST! SO-O-Q SHOULD HE BE TEMPTED, WE'LL BE AROUND TO STOP HIM!

WELL--IT SEEMS I CALLED MY SHOT THIS TIME!

WHO...? THE BATMAN, AGAIN? THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT!

LET'S TAKE 'EM, ROBIN!

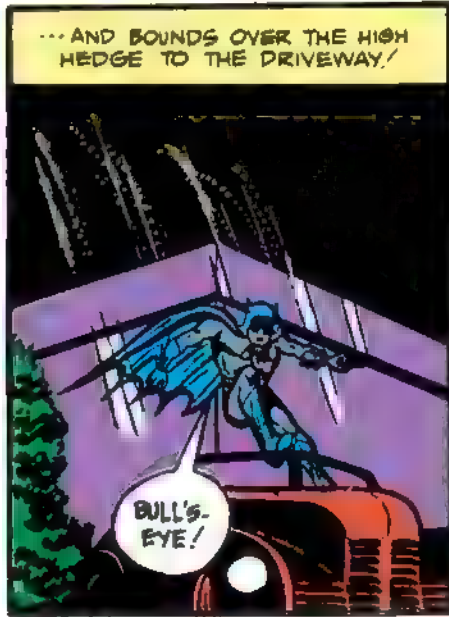
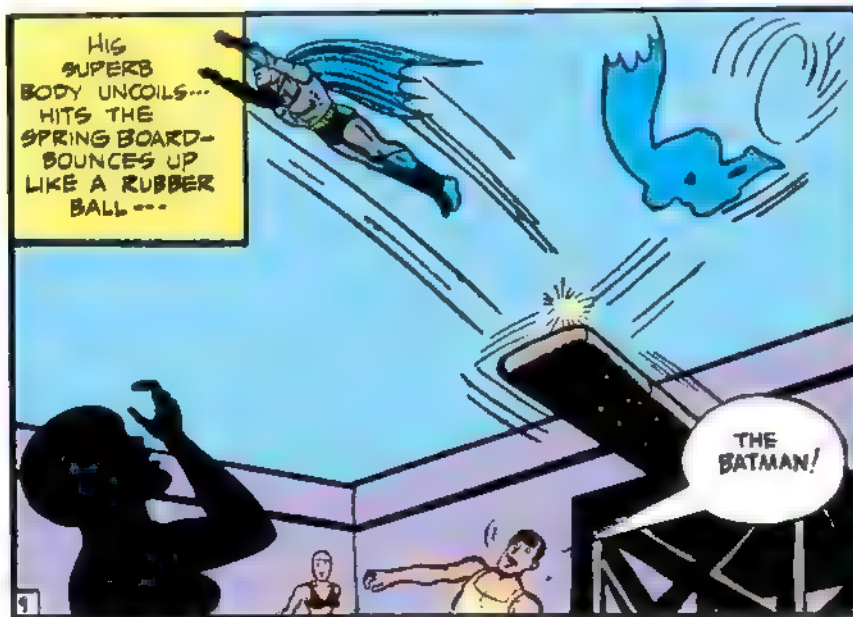
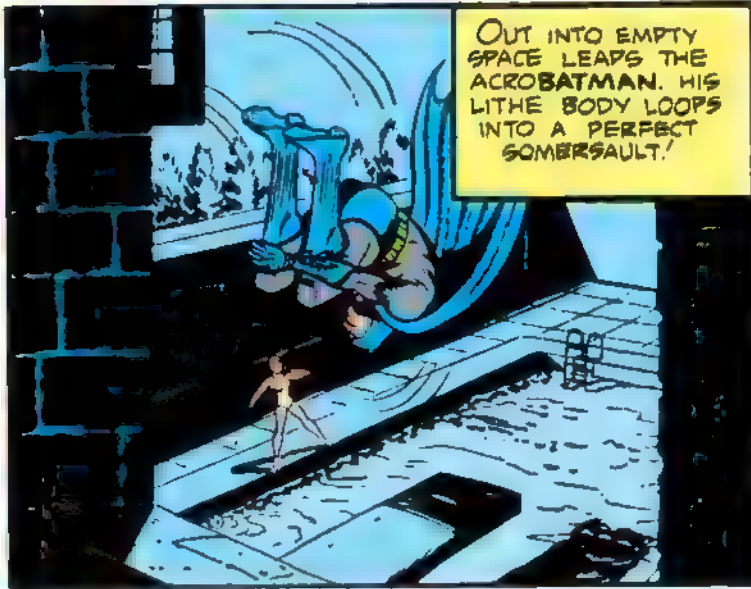
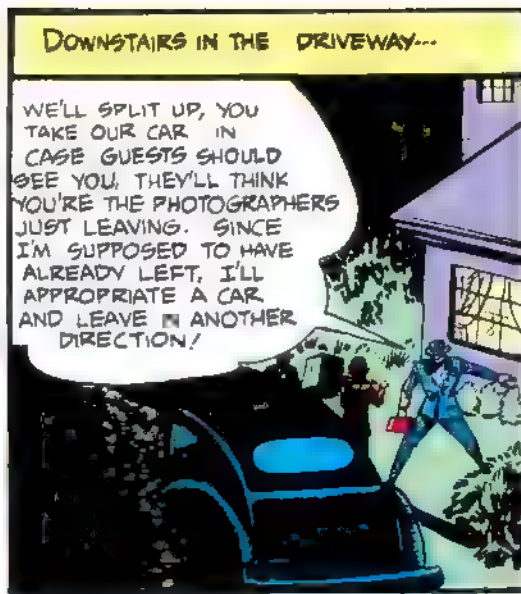
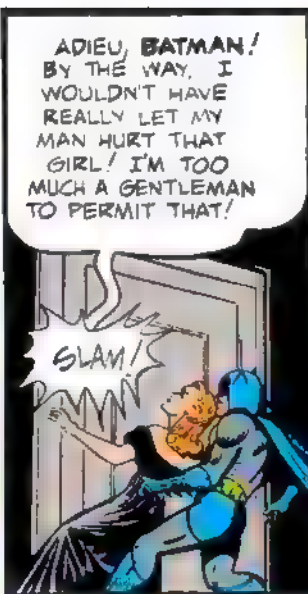
THIS IS GOING TO BE EASY!

RELAX, BATMAN! ONE MOVE AND I BLOW DAYLIGHT THROUGH THE DAME!

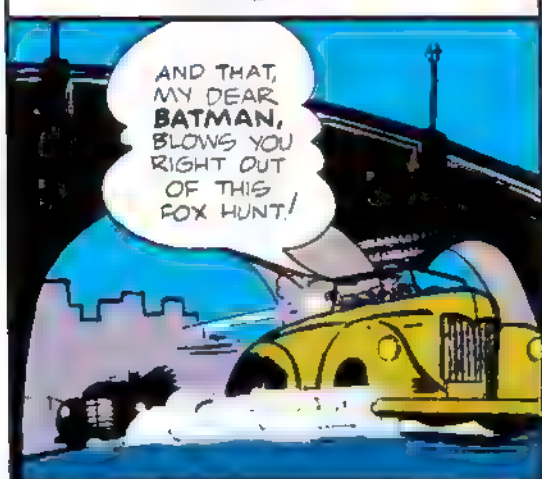
CHECKMATED, BATMAN! IT'S MY MOVE NOW!

HEARD A NOISE-- I--- BATMAN!

9



OUT ON THE PARK HIGHWAY THE CHASE BEGINS - AND ENDS, AS MR. BAFFLE'S BARKING REVOLVER SCORES A DIRECT HIT ON A FRONT TIRE - - -



AND THAT, MY DEAR BATMAN, BLOWS YOU RIGHT OUT OF THIS FOX HUNT!

CAN'T USE THAT CAR! I---WAIT! THIS RACE ISN'T OVER YET!

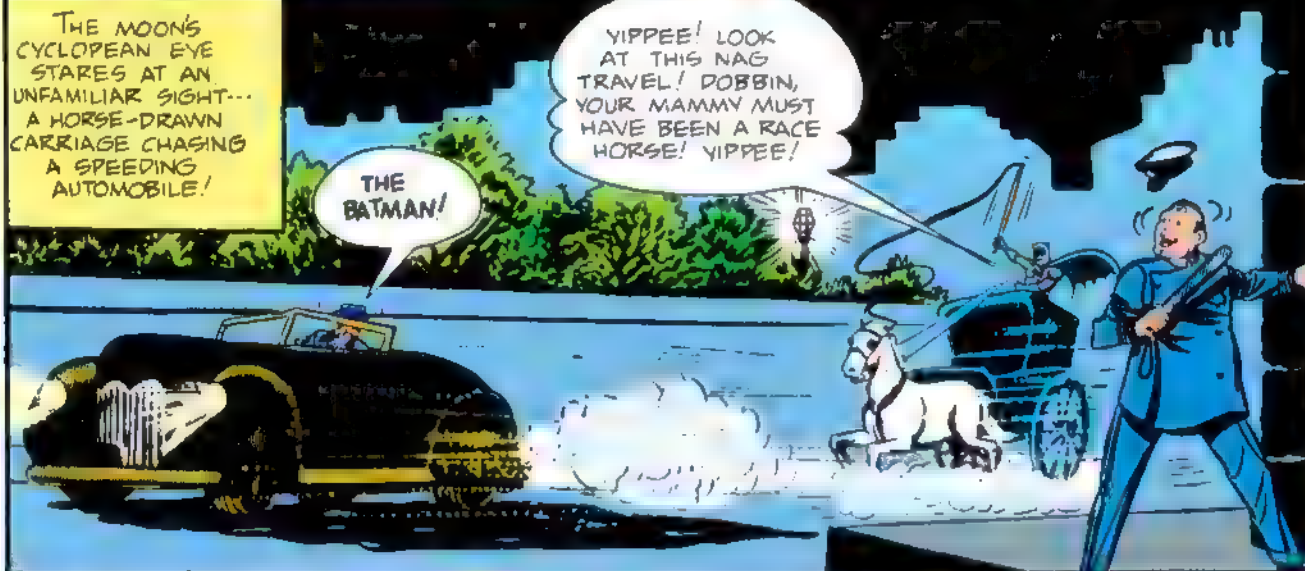


INTO A HANGOM CAB SPRINGS THE BATMAN. THE CRACK OF A WHIP, AND THE HORSE BOLTS FORWARD IN SHOCKED SURPRISE!



C'MON, PEGASUS! STRETCH THOSE LEGS!

THE MOON'S CYCLOPEAN EYE STARES AT AN UNFAMILIAR SIGHT... A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE CHASING A SPEEDING AUTOMOBILE!



THE BATMAN!

YIPPEE! LOOK AT THIS NAG TRAVEL! DOBBIN, YOUR MAMMY MUST HAVE BEEN A RACE HORSE! YIPPEE!

A LITHE LEAP!



HELLO AGAIN!

I SEE YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN!

IN THE ROCKETING, CAREENING CAR, CRIMINAL AND RACKET-WRECKER COME TO GRIPS!



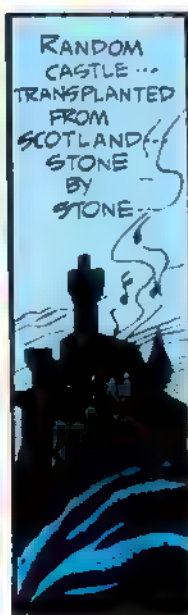
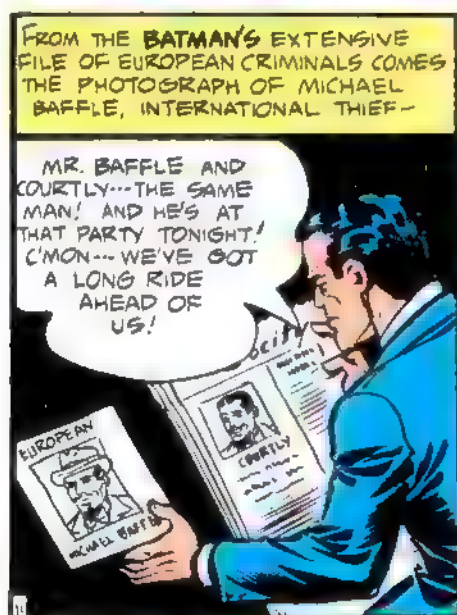
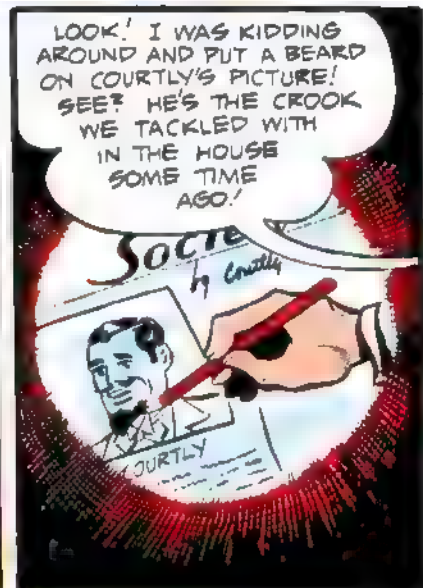
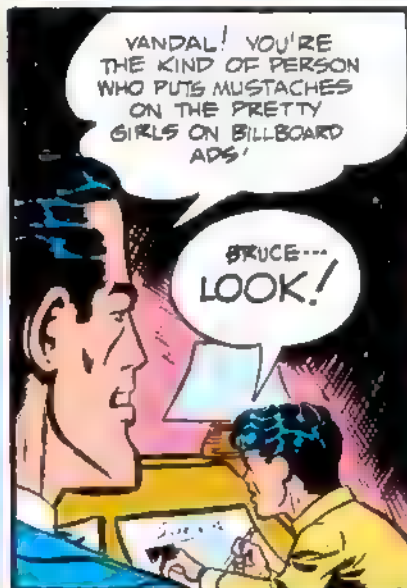
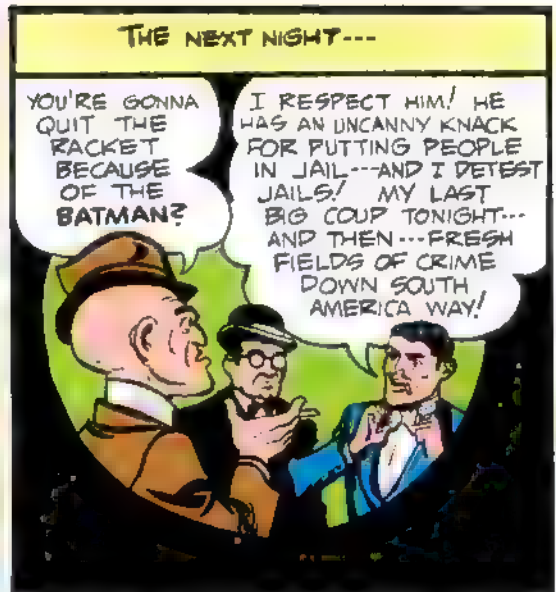
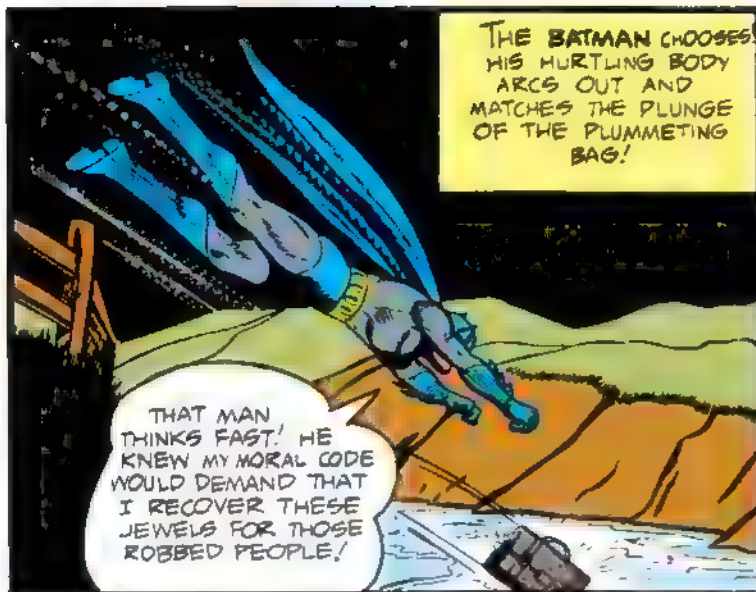
SOMEHOW I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE'VE FOUGHT BEFORE SOME PLACE!

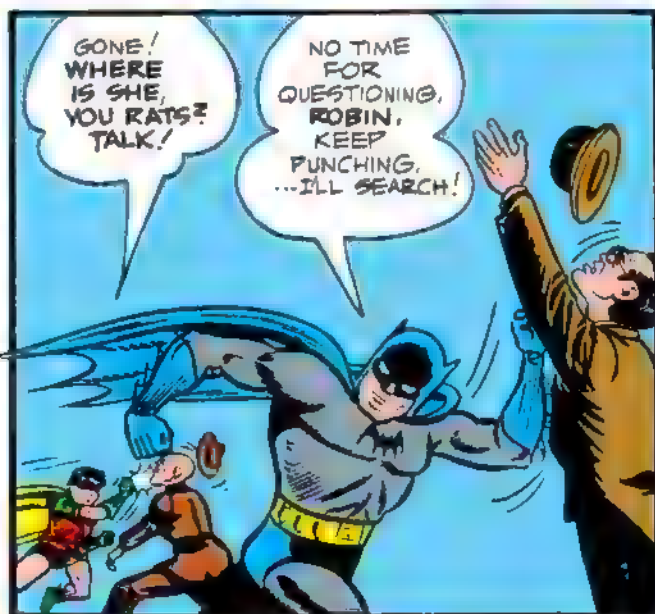
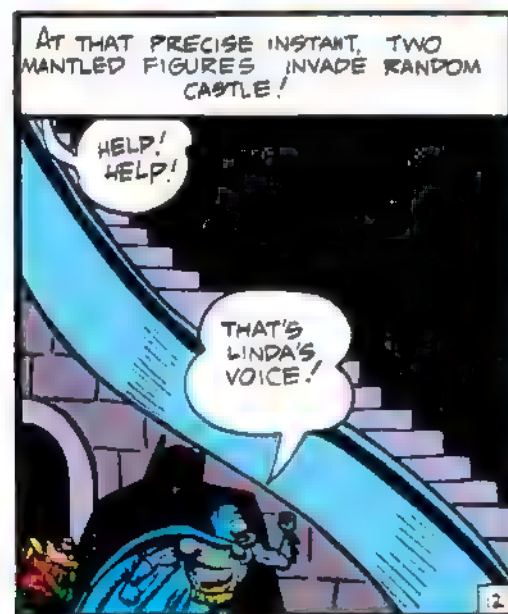
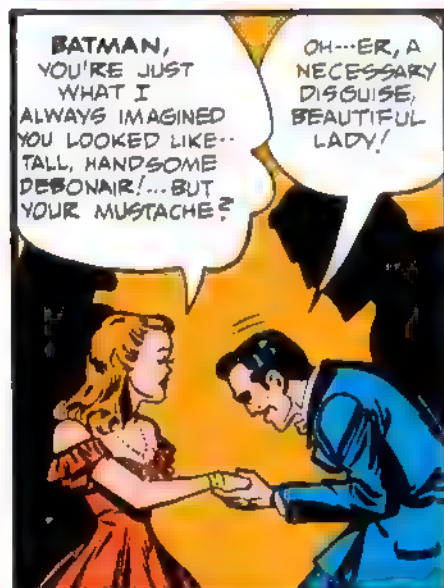
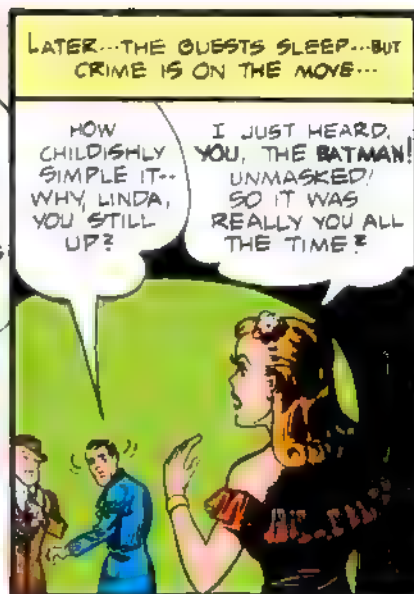
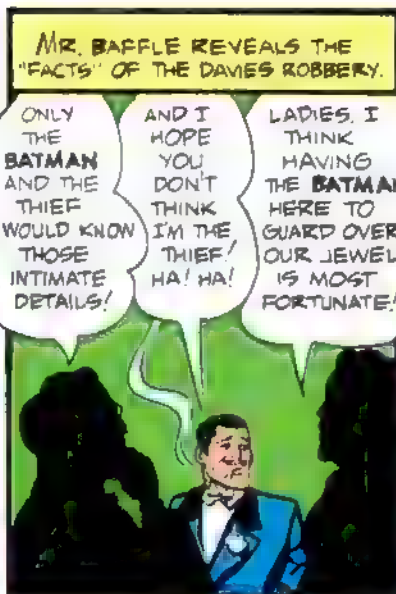
YOU'D BE SURPRISED IF YOU REALLY KNEW! UGH!

SUDDENLY TWISTING FREE, MR. BAFFLE HURLS THE BAG OF LOOT FROM HIM!



THERE GO THE JEWELS! BETTER MAKE A QUICK CHOICE! EITHER YOU TAKE ME OR RECOVER THEM!







LINDA USED HER HEAD! SHE DROPPED HER BEADS ONE AT A TIME TO SERVE AS A TRAIL.



THE TRAIL'S END! AND NOW BEGINS THE FINAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO MASTER FOEMEN!



STOP! BATMAN! I'VE NEVER KILLED BEFORE... BUT I'LL KILL YOU IF NECESSARY! I LOVE MY FREEDOM TOO MUCH TO BE CONFINED BEHIND PRISON WALLS!



SORRY, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE!



THE DUEL OF WITS IS OVER! A GRIMMER DUEL BEGINS!



VERY WELL, THEN! EN GARDE, BATMAN!

IRONICALLY, BATMAN SLIPS... ON THE VERY BEADS THAT SERVED IN HIS FAVOR BEFORE!



WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN ME THROUGH? YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE.

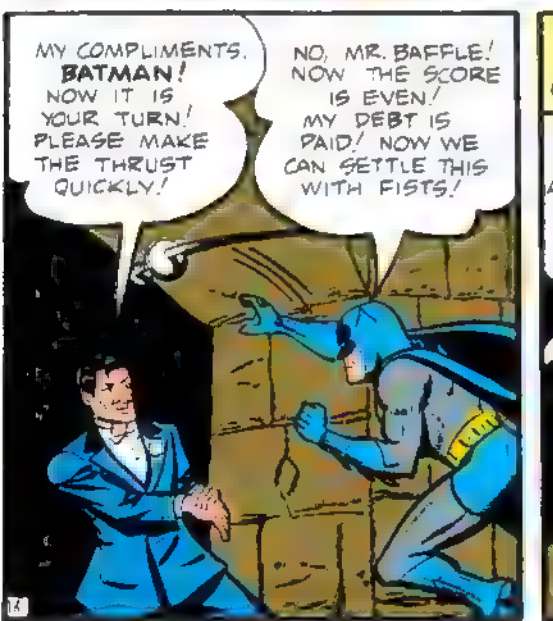
PSHAW! MUST GIVE A FELLOW A SPORTING CHANCE FOR HIS LIFE, Y'KNOW! YOUR SWORD AND EN GARDE!



YOU'RE A CHIVALROUS SCOUNDREL! EN GARDE, IT IS! HA! TOUCHE!



UGH!



MY COMPLIMENTS, BATMAN! NOW IT IS YOUR TURN! PLEASE MAKE THE THRUST QUICKLY!

NO, MR. BAFFLE! NOW THE SCORE IS EVEN! MY DEBT IS PAID! NOW WE CAN SETTLE THIS WITH FISTS!



TWO GALLANT FIGHTERS MEET AND TRADE BLOWS! THEN, CLAMORING VOICES ARE HEARD!

THIS WAY! MR. COURTLY IS A CROOK, AND HE'S FIGHTING THE REAL BATMAN!

MULLO! I CAN'T HOPE TO COMPETE WITH THAT ONCOMING HORDE! I'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE THIS LITTLE SKIRMISH, BATMAN...



SO LONG, FELLA! I WOULD HAVE WANTED YOU FOR MY FRIEND... BUT WE'RE ON OPPOSITE SIDES, SO NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOU'VE GOT A FIGHT ON YOUR HANDS, MR. BAFFLE!

GOOD-BYE FOR NOW... SEE YOU AGAIN SOME TIME, BATMAN!

The End



No. 64

NEW FEATURE
THE BOY
COMMANDOS



Detective

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

COMICS

JUNE



BATMAN

WITH

ROBIN

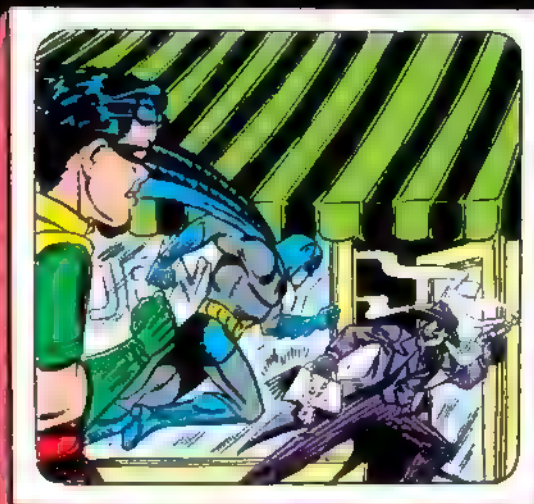
-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB
KANE

~OBITUARY~
LAST NIGHT AT 12:05 A.M. A MASTER-CRIMINAL WAS LED TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR WHERE HE PAID THE SUPREME PENALTY FOR HIS CRIMES. AFTER YEARS OF DARING EXPLOITS WHICH ONLY THE BATMAN AND ROBIN COULD HOLD IN CHECK, THE CAREER OF THE KING OF CRIME IS ENDED. THE JOKER IS DEAD!

FOR ANY OTHER MAN, THIS OBITUARY WOULD SPELL THE FINISH OF HIS STORY... BUT FOR THE MASTER OF MOCKERY IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A WEIRD ADVENTURE WHEN "THE JOKER WALKS THE LAST MILE!"

CONFESS!



CONFESS!

CONFESS! CONFESS!

CONFESS!

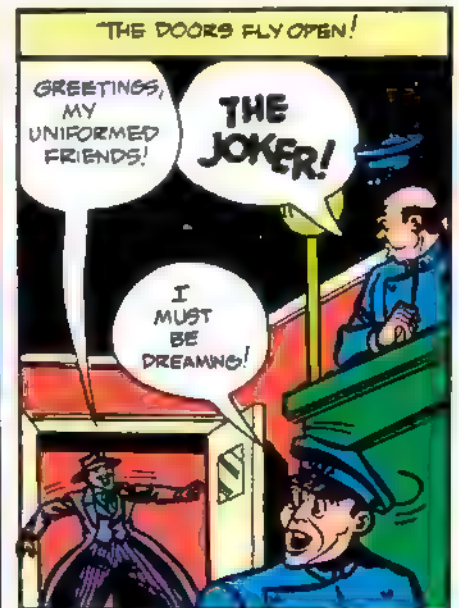
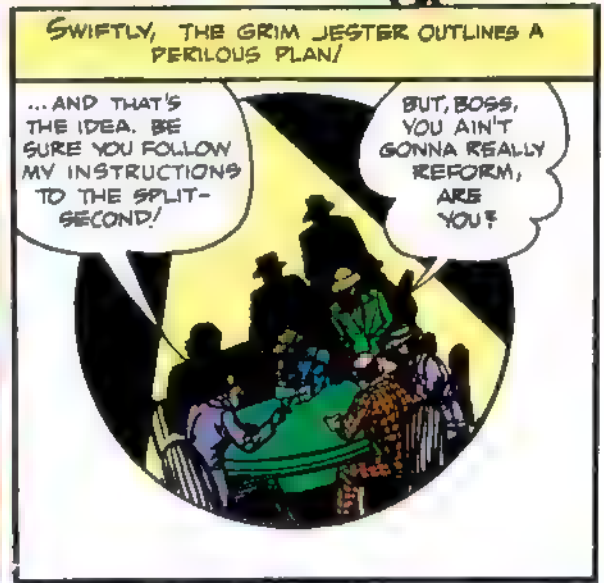
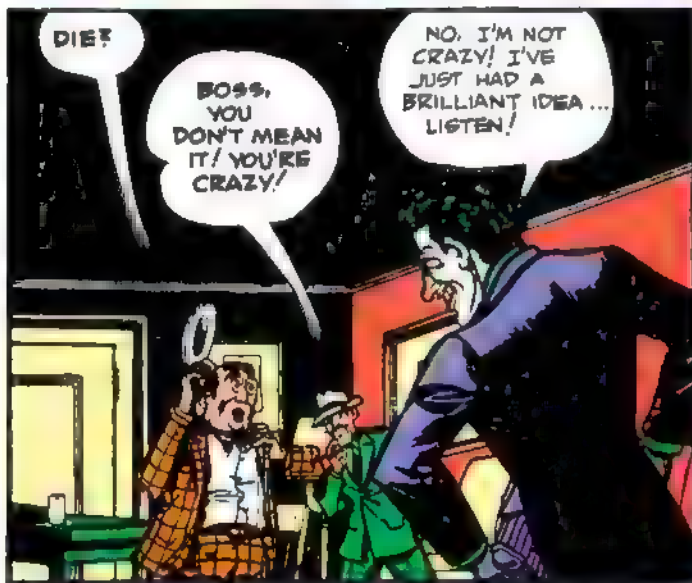
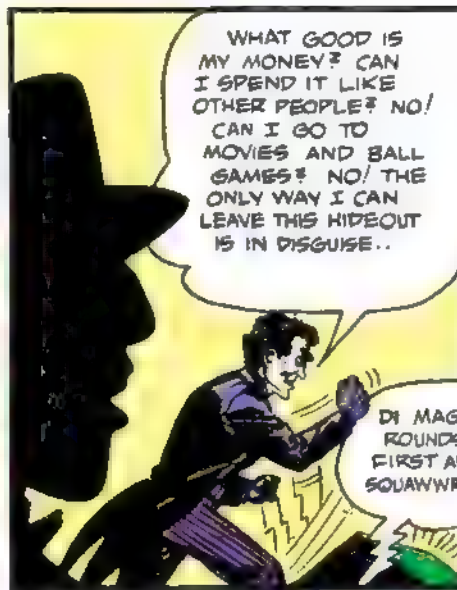
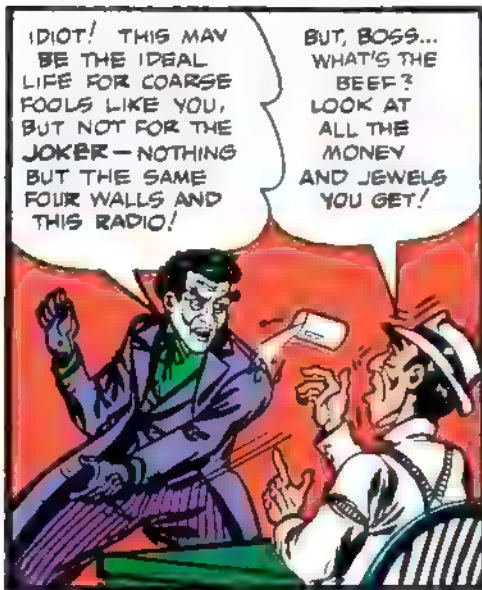
IN THE GRIM LAIR OF THE JOKER, THE MASTER OF MOCKERY MOODILY LURKS WITH HIS HENCHMEN!

...LAST HALF OF THE FOURTH INNING. DIMAGGIO AT BAT...THE COUNT IS THREE AND TWO...

GEE, WHAT A GAME!

BOY, I COULD SPEND THE REST O' MY DAY LIKE THIS! THIS SURE IS THE LIFE!

DI MAGGIO CONNECTS!



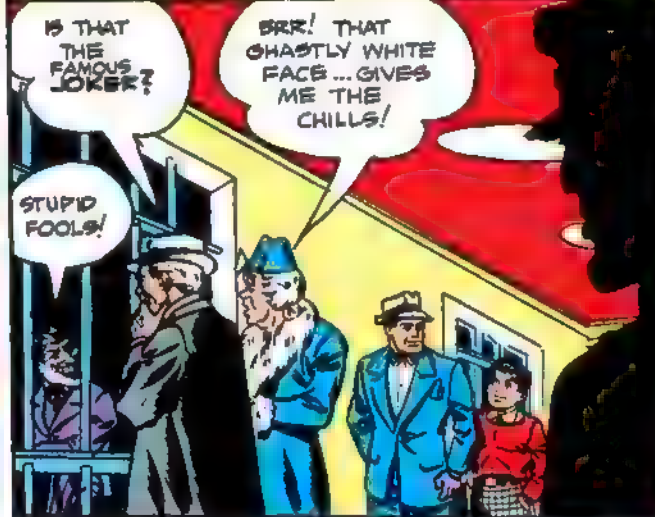


AND BROADCAST TO THE CORNERS OF THE WORLD!

WE INTERRUPT THIS BROADCAST OF THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF BATMAN TO BRING YOU A SPECIAL BULLETIN. THE JOKER HAS BEEN CAPTURED!



WHILE PAST THE PRISONER'S CELL PASS THOUSANDS EACH DAY...



THAT'S THE JOKER, ALL RIGHT! BRUCE-TO THINK THAT HE DELIBERATELY GAVE HIMSELF UP!

IT'S AMAZING, ROBIN! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THERE MUST BE A CATCH SOMEWHERE!



STEP ASIDE, FOLKS! VISITIN' HOURS ARE OVER!

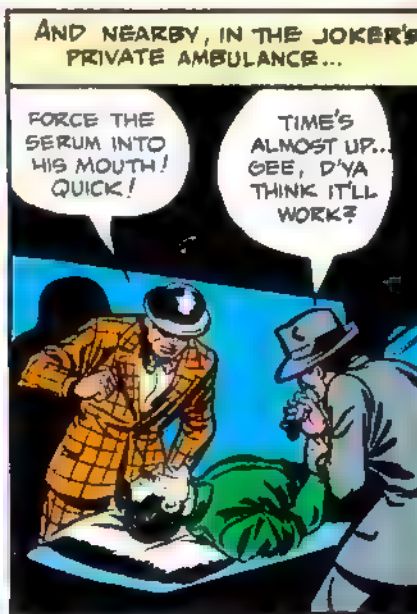
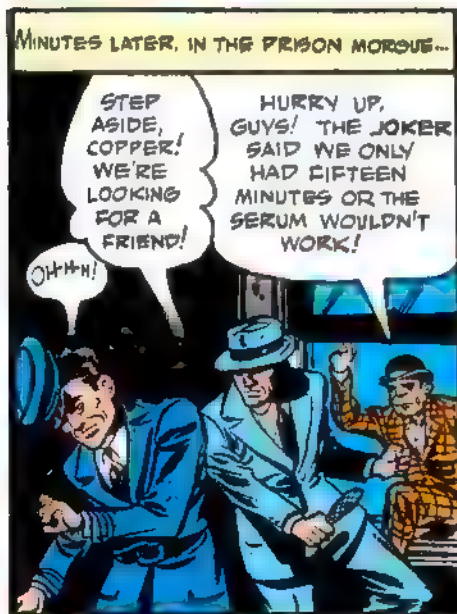
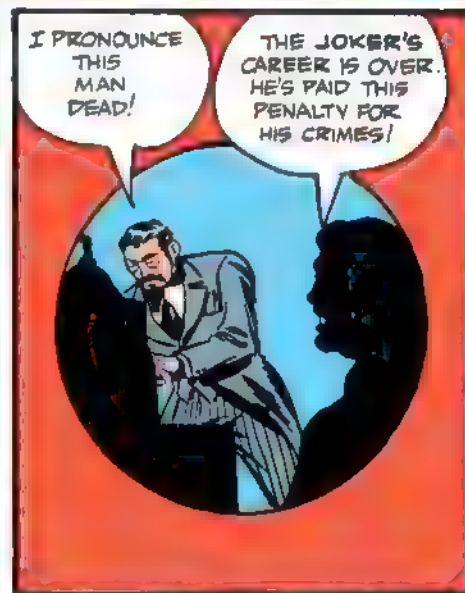
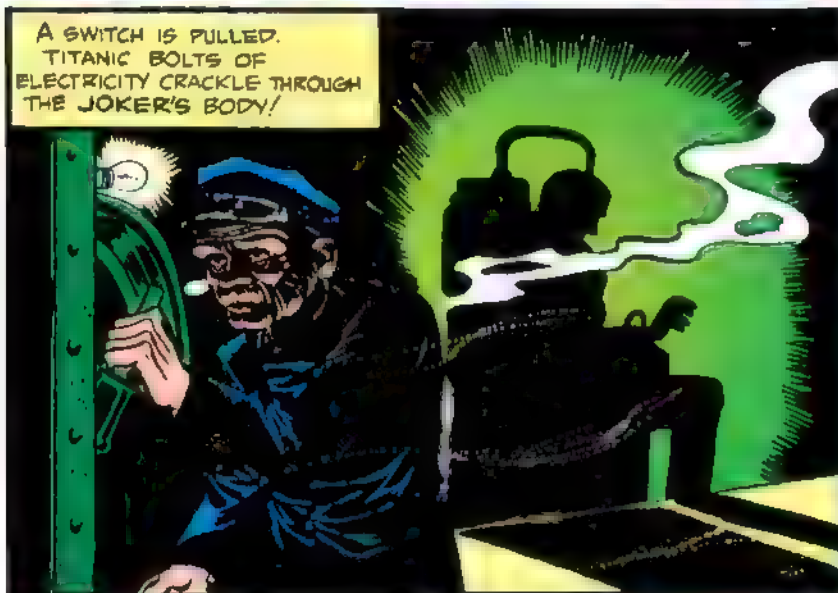
YEP! IT'S TIME FOR THE JOKER'S CONFESSION SESSION! COME ON, JOKER!

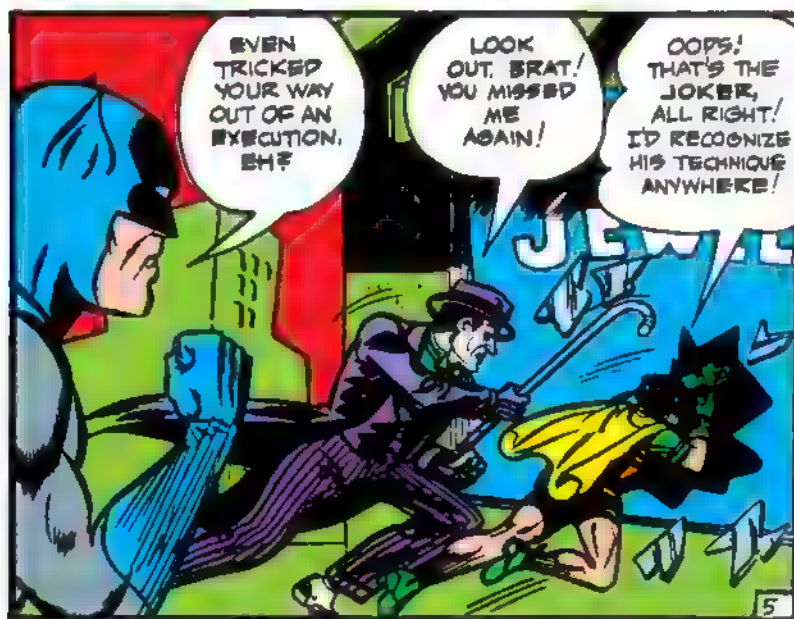
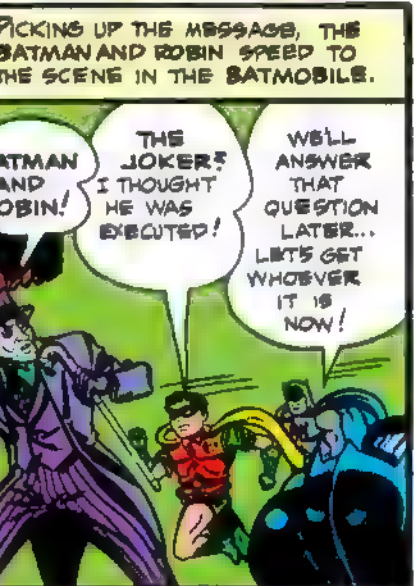


... AND DAILY, THE JOKER REELS OFF THE SEEMINGLY NEVER-ENDING LIST OF HIS INCREDIBLE CRIMES...

NOW LET ME SEE, WHERE WERE WE? AH, YES, AT THE CLOSE OF THE 'CASE OF THE LUCKY-LAW BREAKERS'. I ROBBED THE NATIONAL BANK OF DENVER!...







AT THE POLICE COURT, BATMAN DUMPS HIS BUNDLE OF REFUSE....

HERE'S A PRESENT FOR THE POLICE. LOCK HIM UP FOR KEEPS THIS TIME!

LOCK ME UP? RIDICULOUS! I'VE ALREADY PAID THE PENALTY FOR MY CRIMES. THE LAW SAYS A MAN CANNOT BE PLACED IN DOUBLE JEOPARDY FOR THE SAME CRIMES!

THROUGH A CUNNING LEGAL TRICK, THE JOKER IS FREE!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE JOKER IS RIGHT. SINCE HE WAS EXECUTED HE IS FREE NOW!

BATMAN, I COULD CHARGE YOU WITH ASSAULT, BUT NOW THAT I'M FREE, I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME GENEROUS! GOOD DAY, SIR!

YES, THE JOKER IS FREE, BUT STILL THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MAINTAIN A CEASELESS WATCH BY DAY...

SO FAR HE HASN'T LEFT HIS APARTMENT ALL DAY!

ANYTHING SO FAR, BRUCE?

NOTHING, DICK! HE HASN'T MADE A MOVE!

AND BY NIGHT

SHINE, KID. ANYTHING YET, DICK?

OKAY, MISTER... NOTHING, BRUCE!

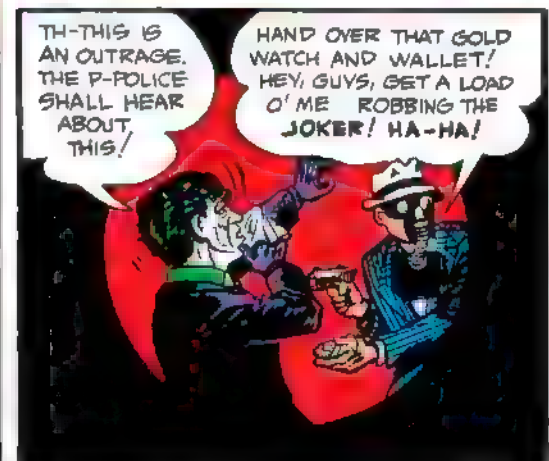
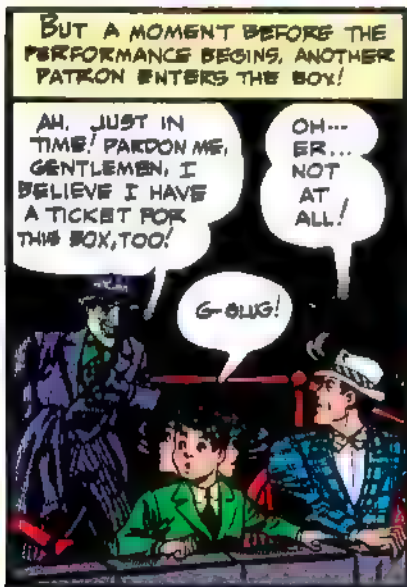
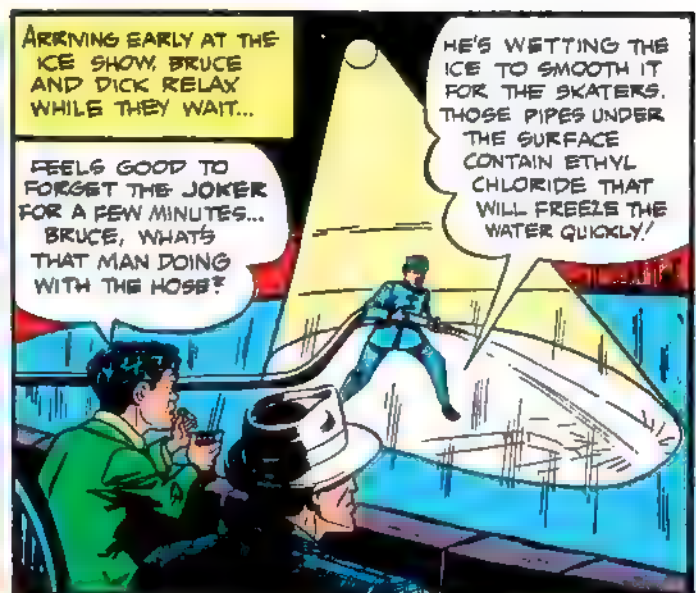
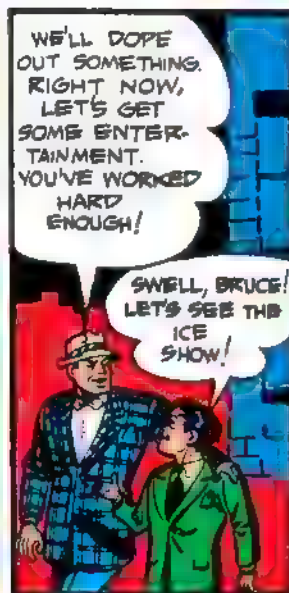
WHILE INSIDE THE JOKER'S ROOM...

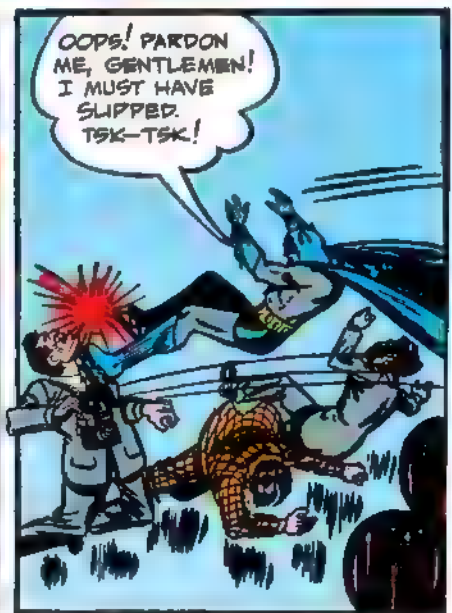
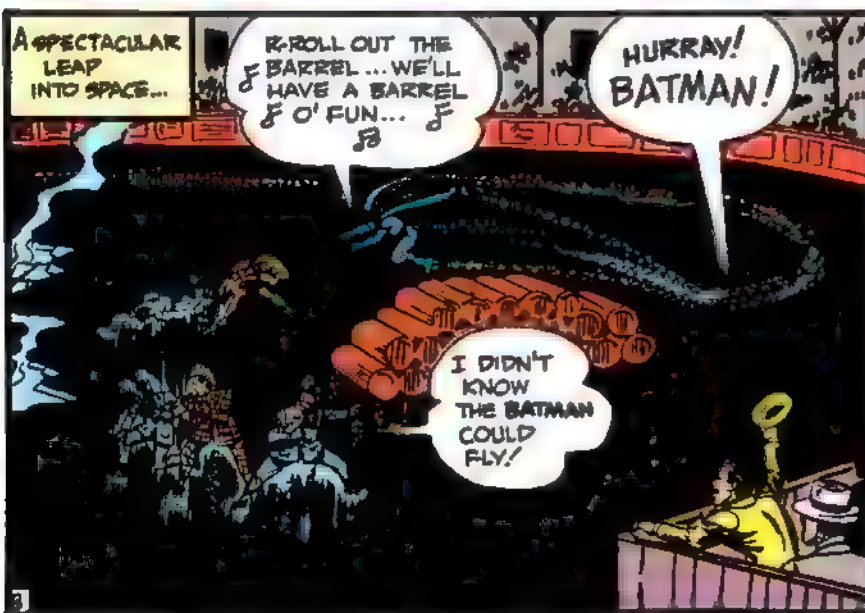
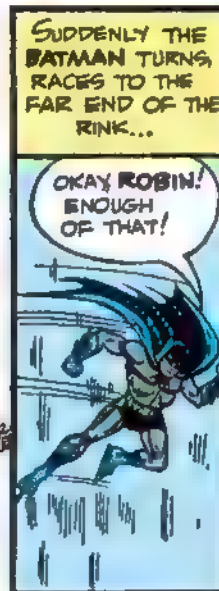
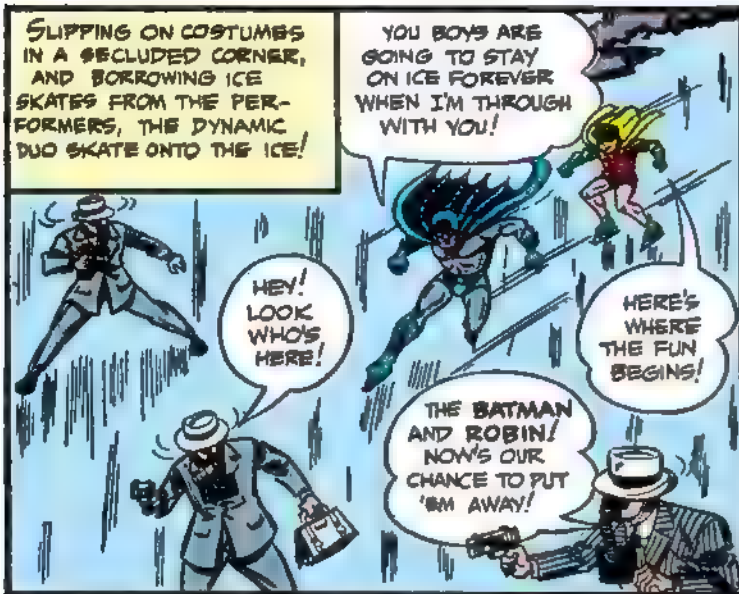
HA! THOSE STUPID DETECTIVES WATCH THE JOKER. THEY NEVER DREAM THAT I'M SENDING MESSAGES TO MY MEN WITH THIS HOTEL SIGN BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES!

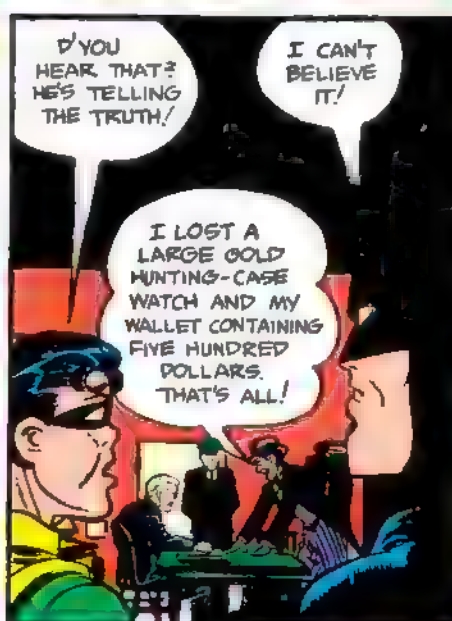
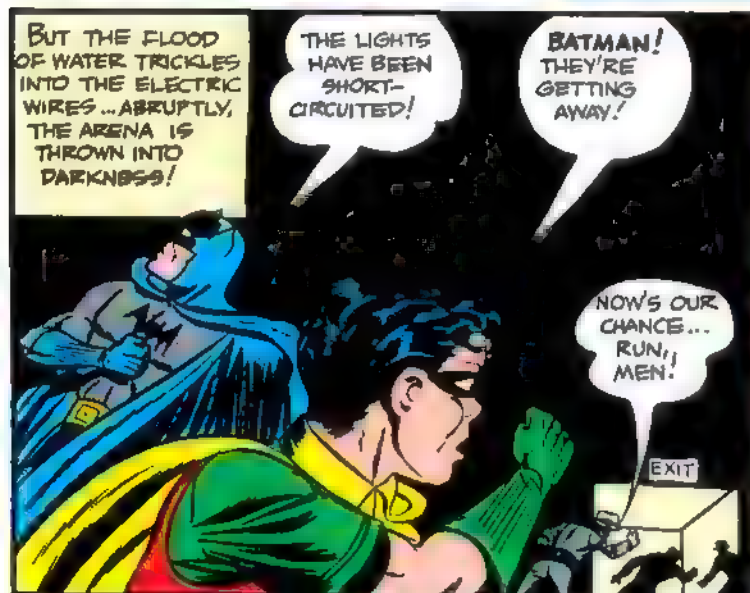
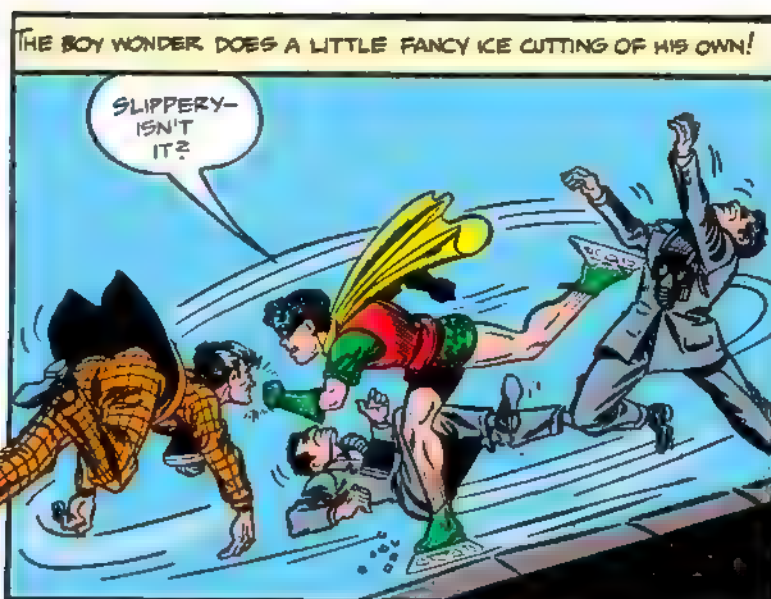
I KNOW THE POLICE ARE TAPPING MY PHONE... BUT THEY CAN'T SUSPECT THIS TRICK. A CORD CONNECTED TO A SWITCH I'VE SPICED ONTO THE CURRENT WIRES... HA! HA! HA! HA!

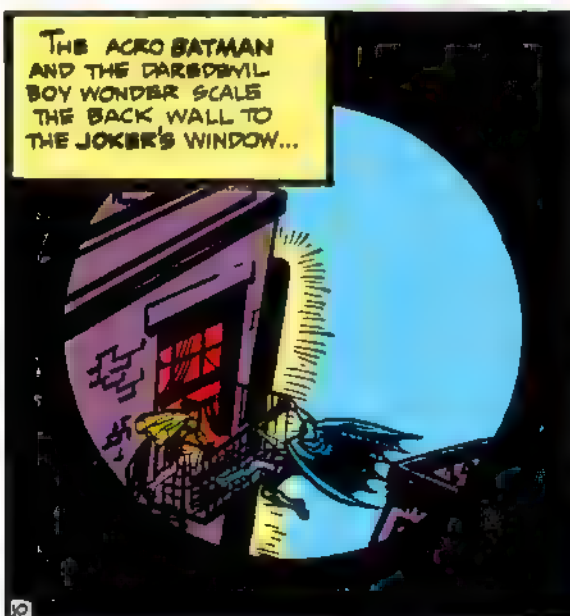
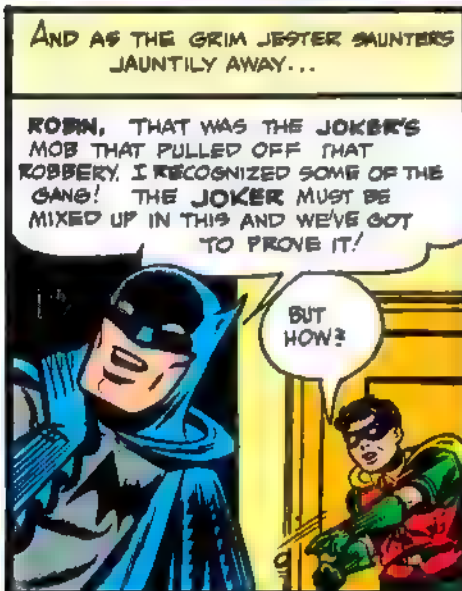
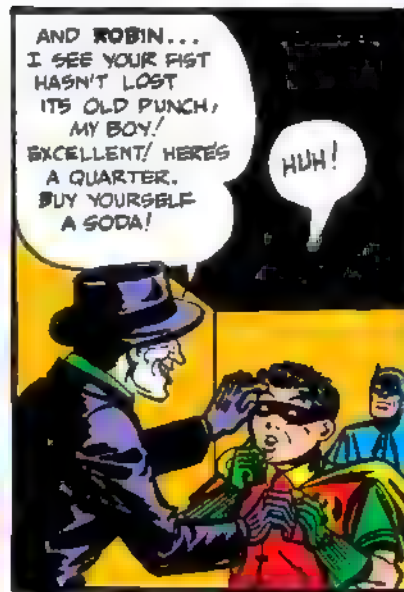
AND AS THE SIGN BLINKS OFF A DOT AND DASH CODE, FAR ACROSS THE CITY...

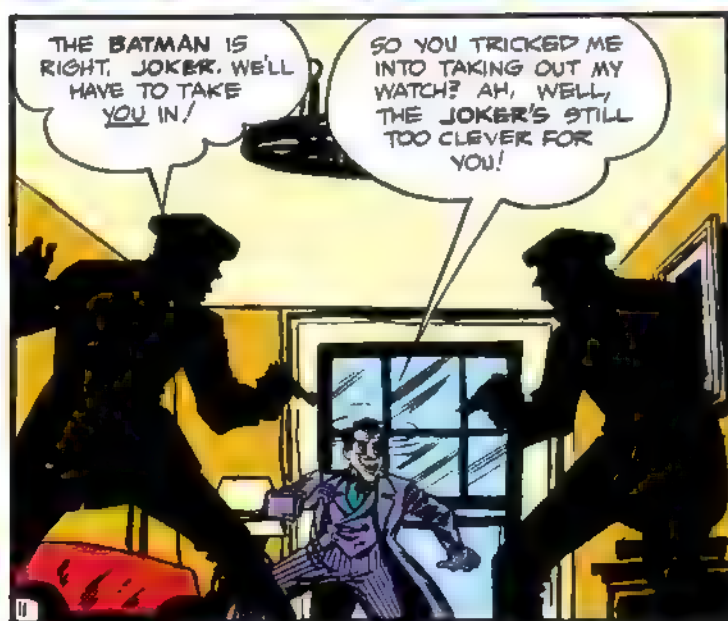
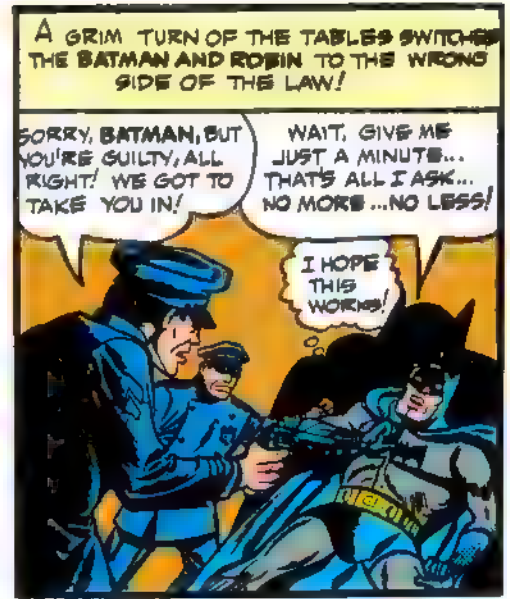
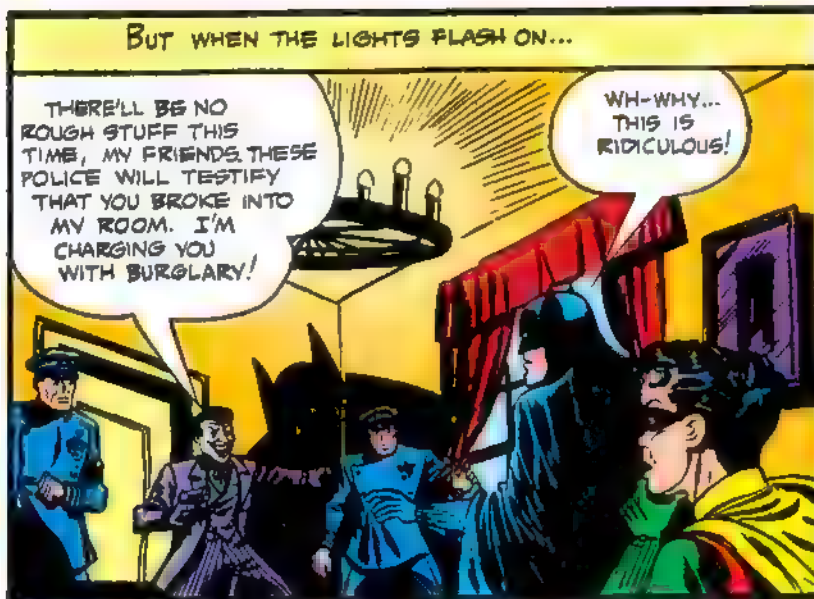
THE JOKER SAYS FOR US TO PULL THE ARENA JOB TONIGHT.. AND TO ROB HIM, TOO, SO'S HE'LL LOOK INNOCENT!

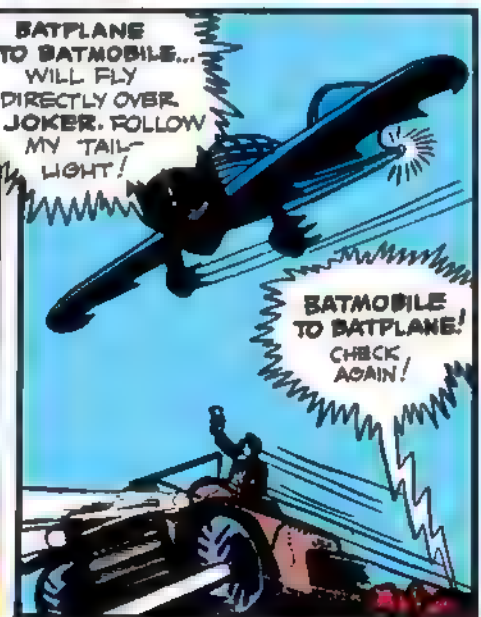
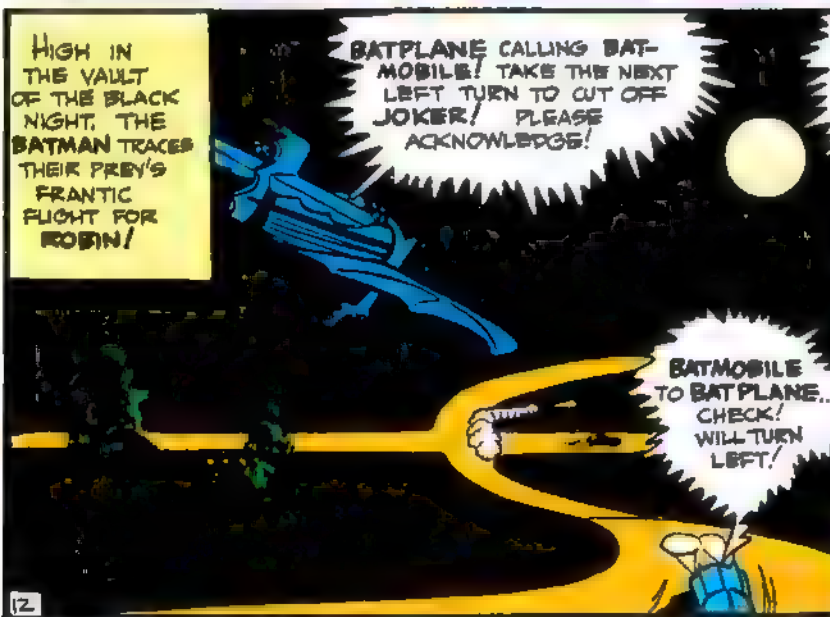
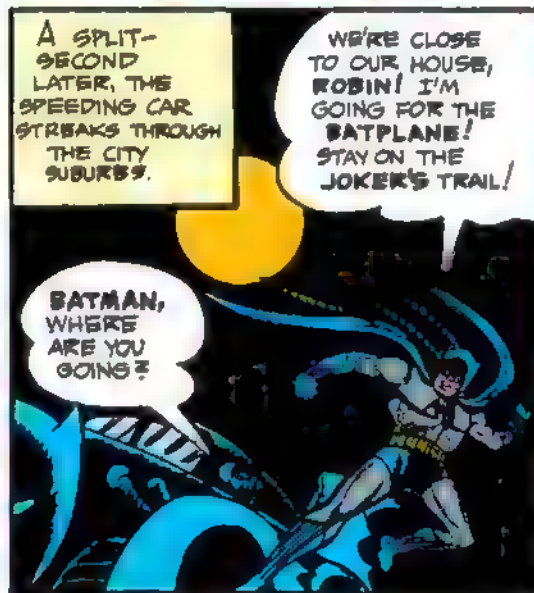
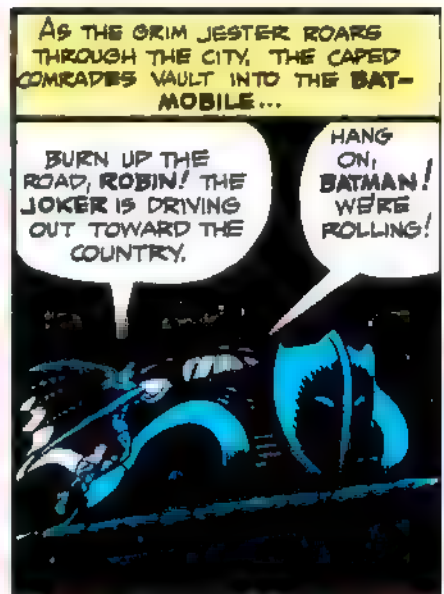
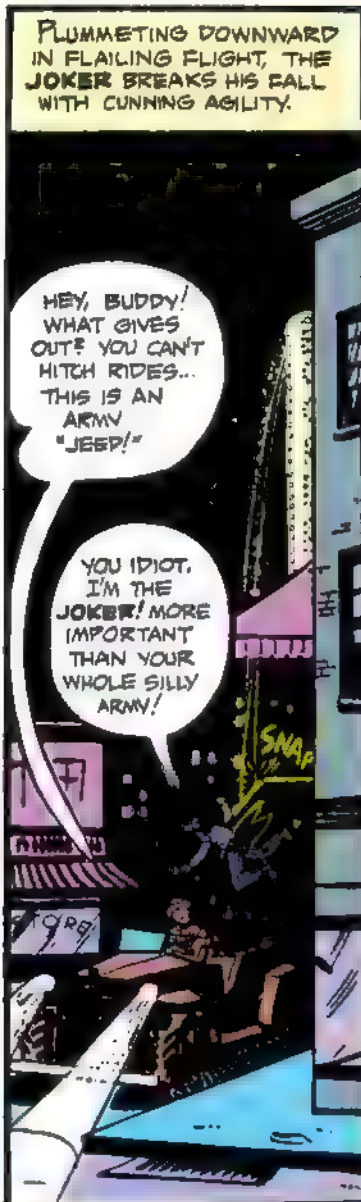


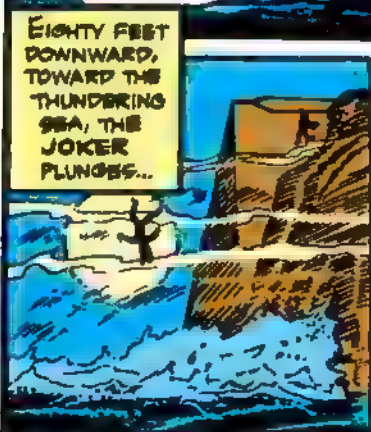
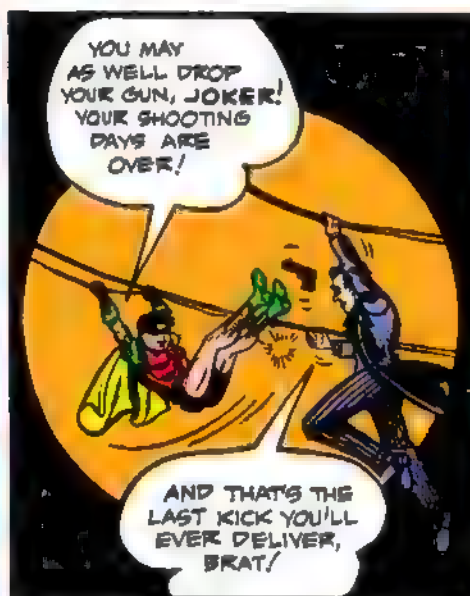
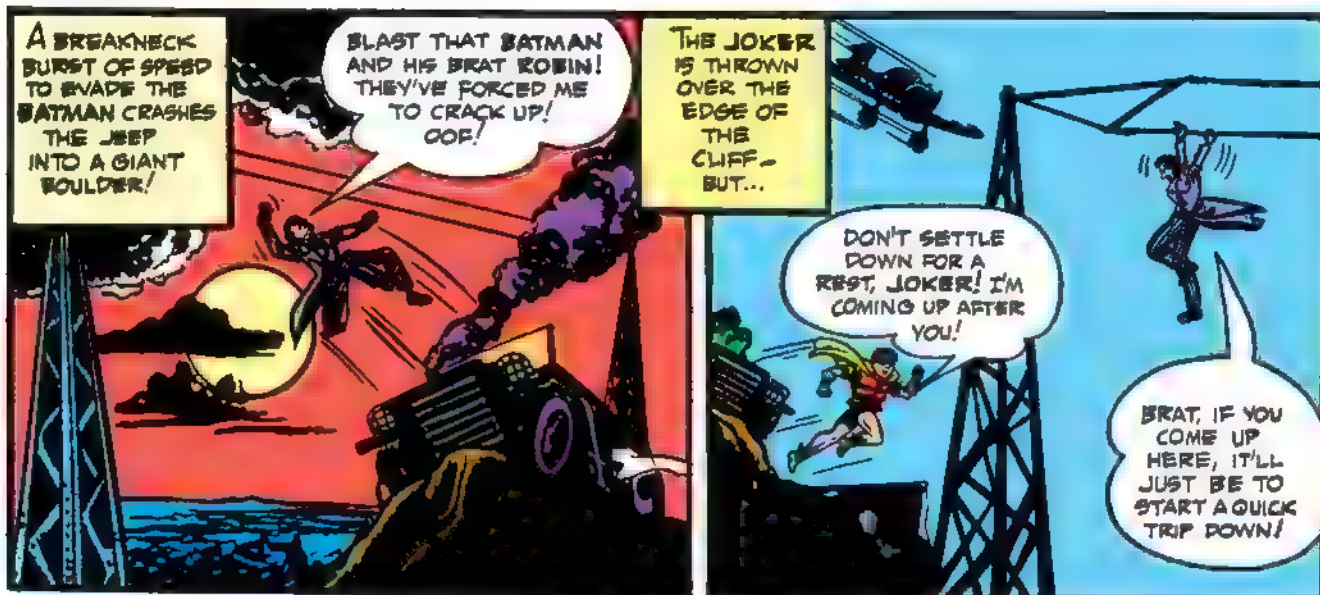


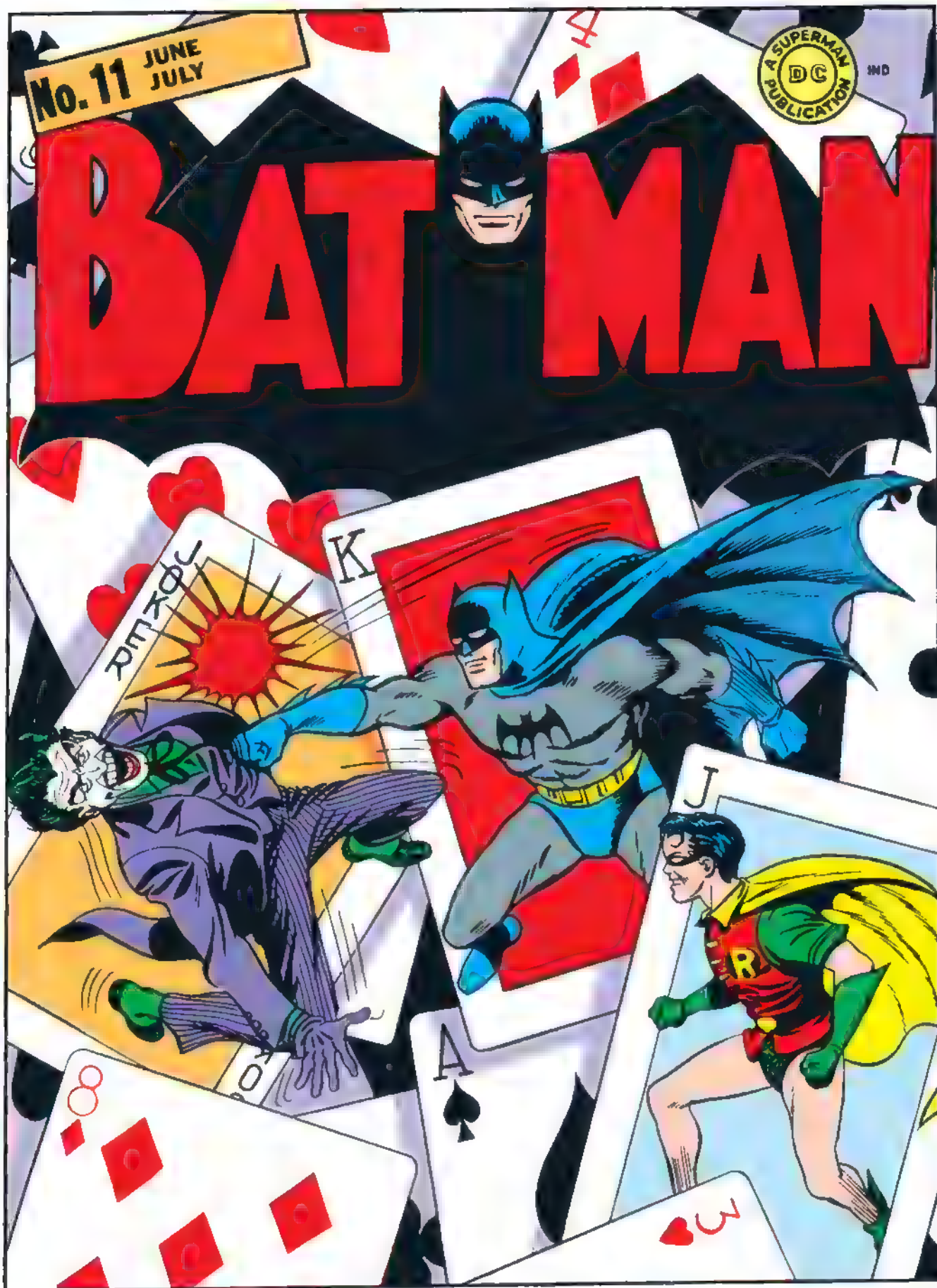










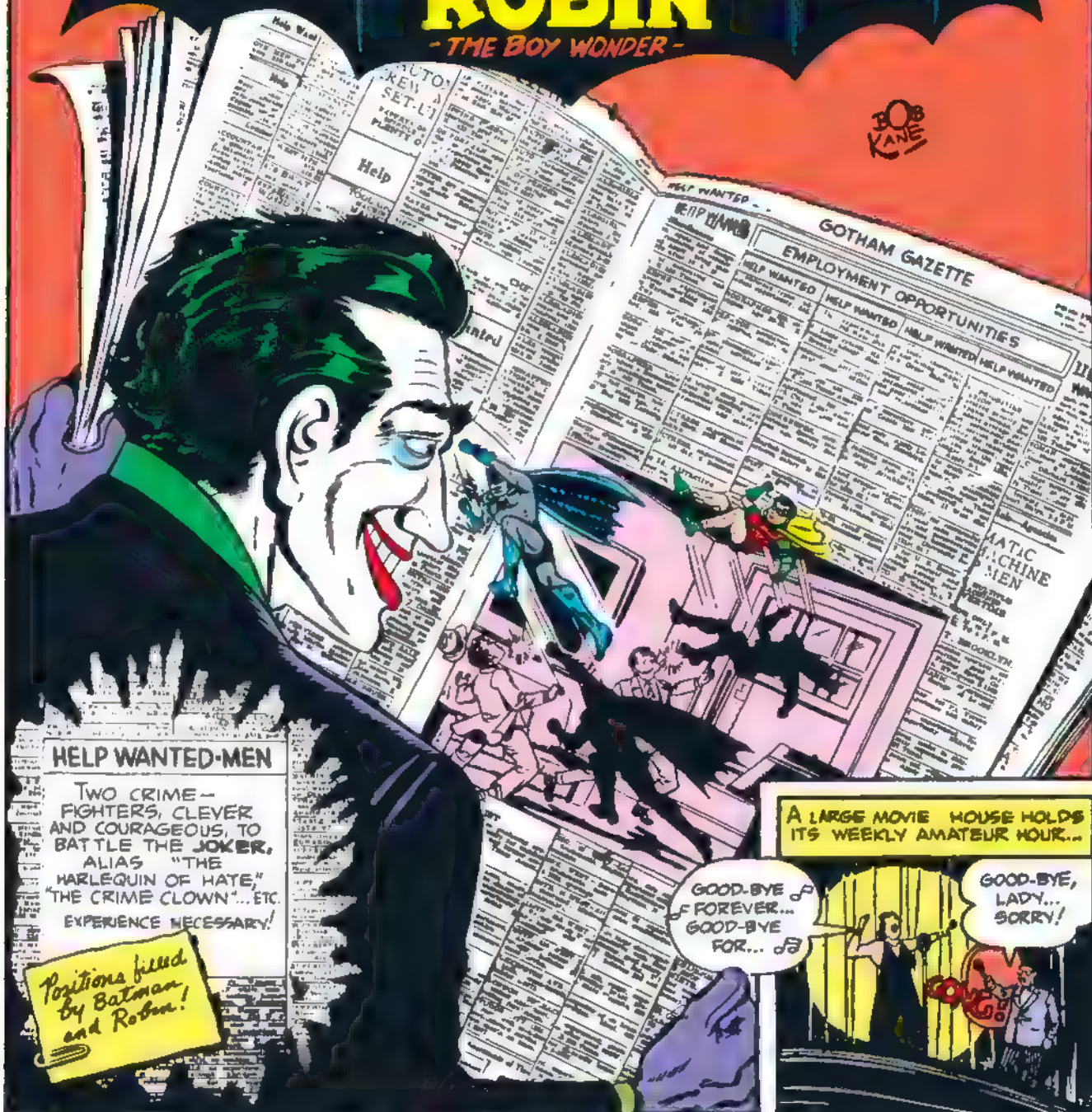


BATMAN

WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

BOB KANE



HELP WANTED-MEN

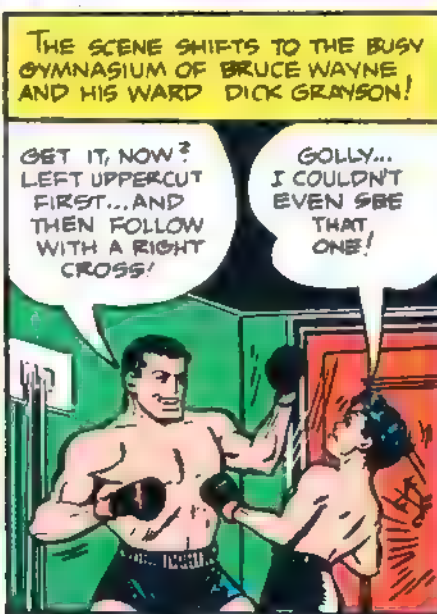
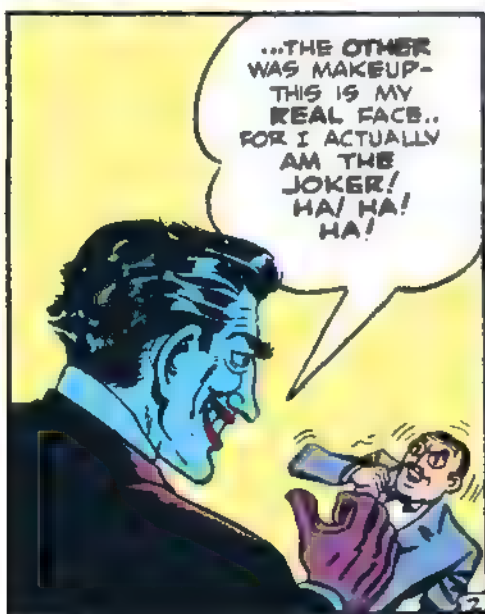
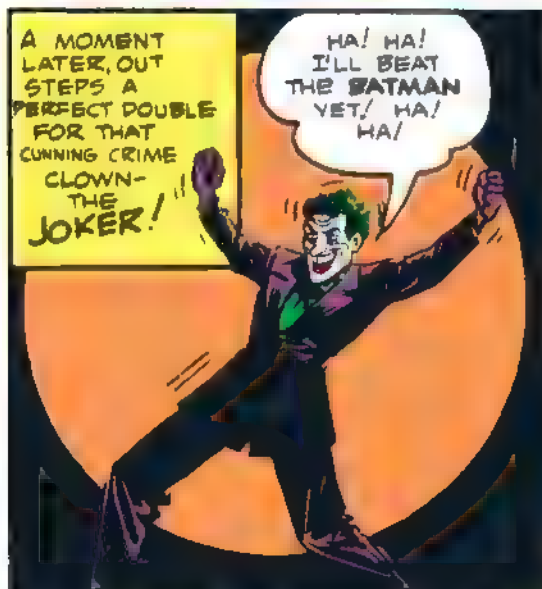
TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS, CLEVER AND COURAGEOUS, TO BATTLE THE JOKER, ALIAS "THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE," "THE CRIME CLOWN"... ETC. EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

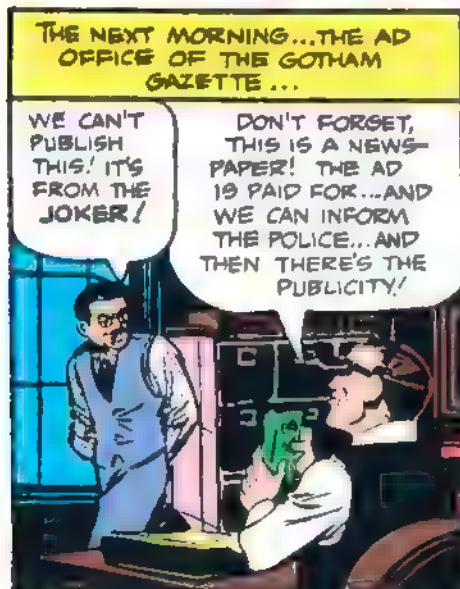
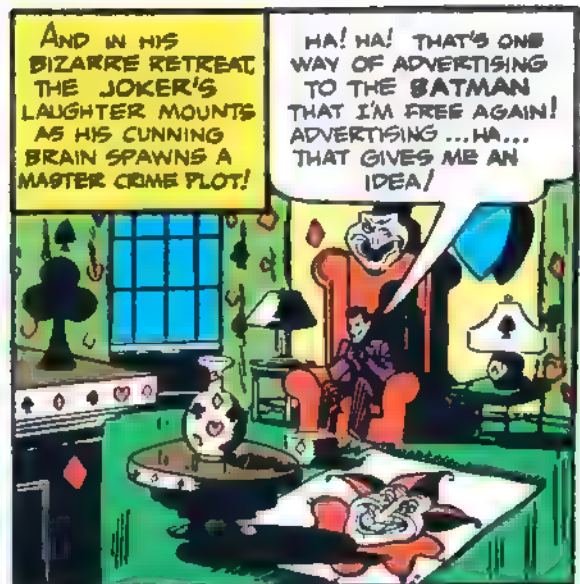
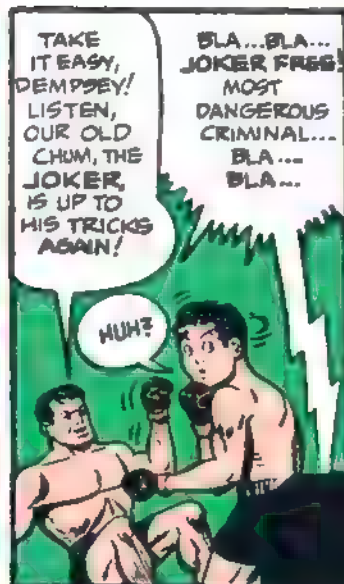
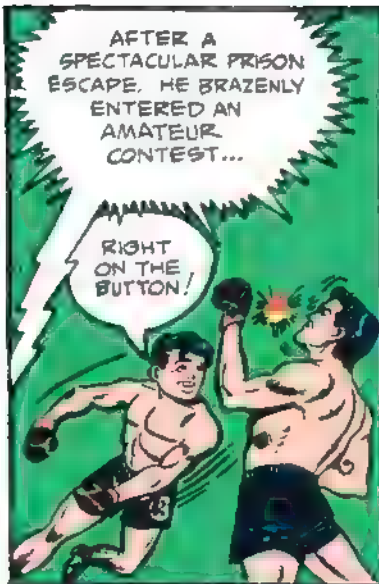
Positions filled by Batman and Robin!

A LARGE MOVIE HOUSE HOLDS ITS WEEKLY AMATEUR HOUR...

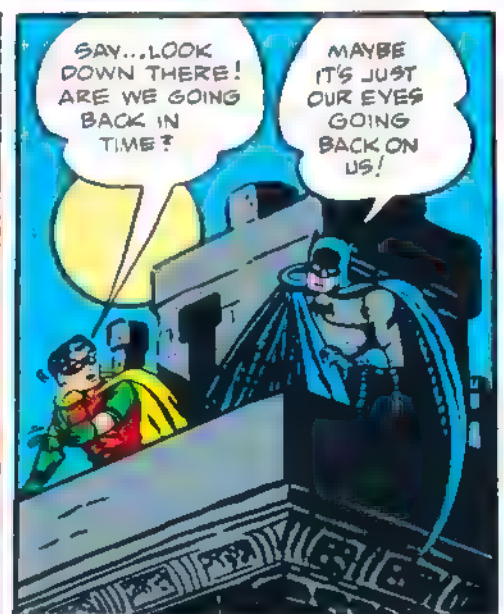
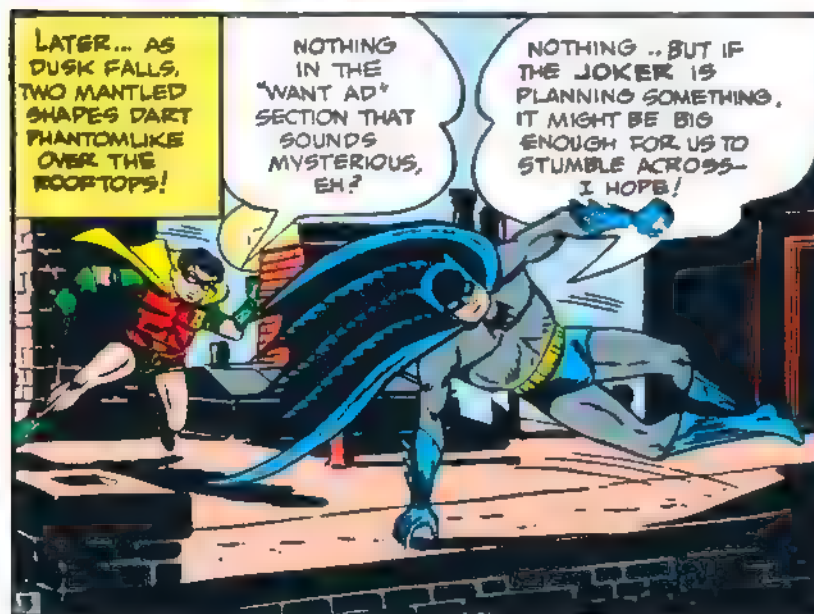
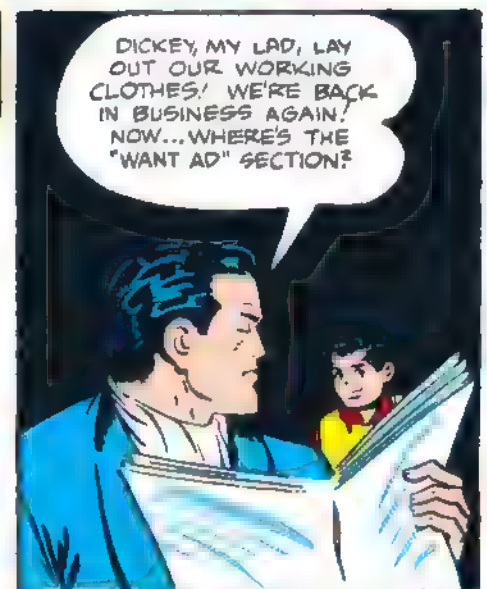
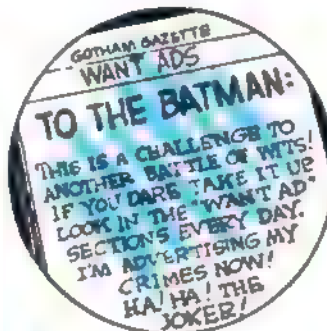
GOOD-BYE ♪
FOREVER...
GOOD-BYE
FOR... ♪

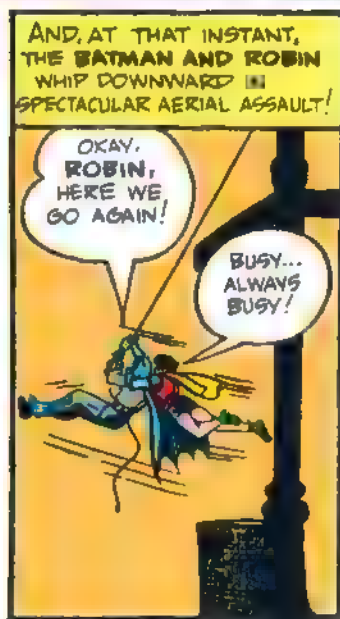
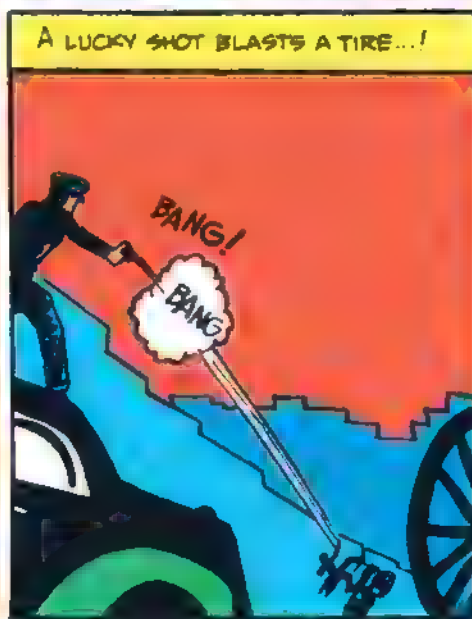
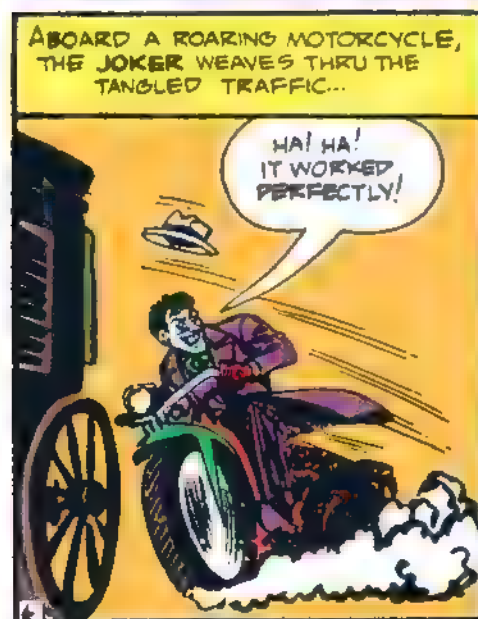
GOOD-BYE,
LADY...
SORRY!

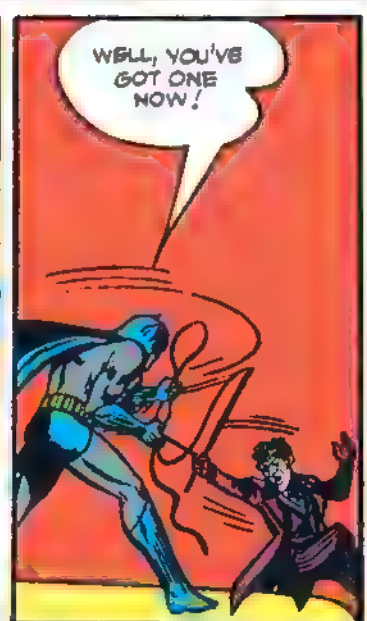
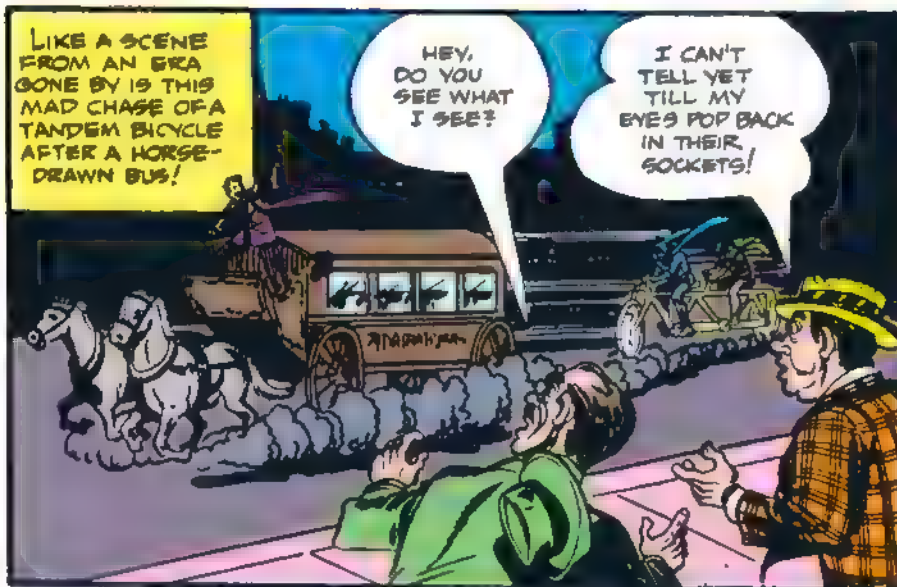
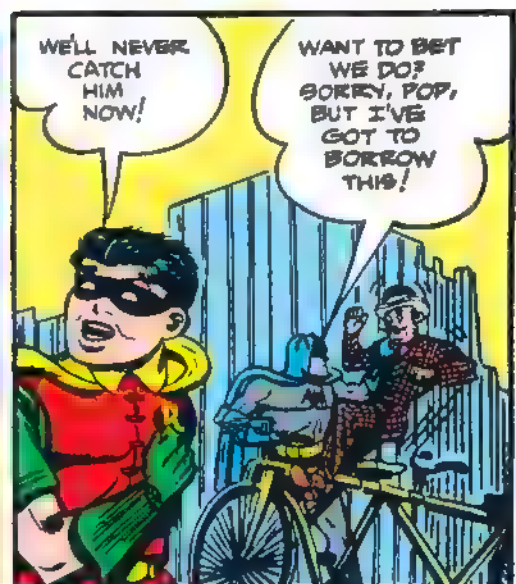
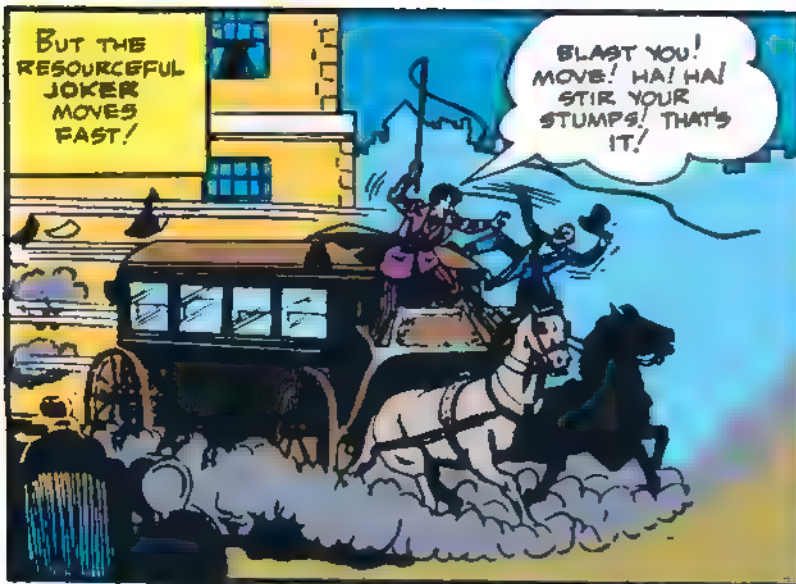


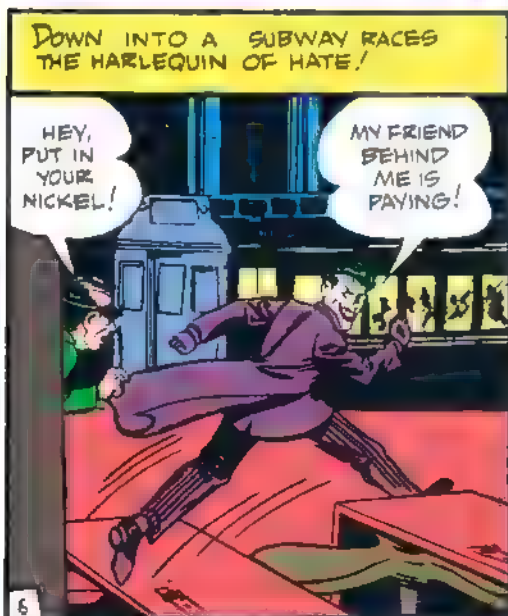
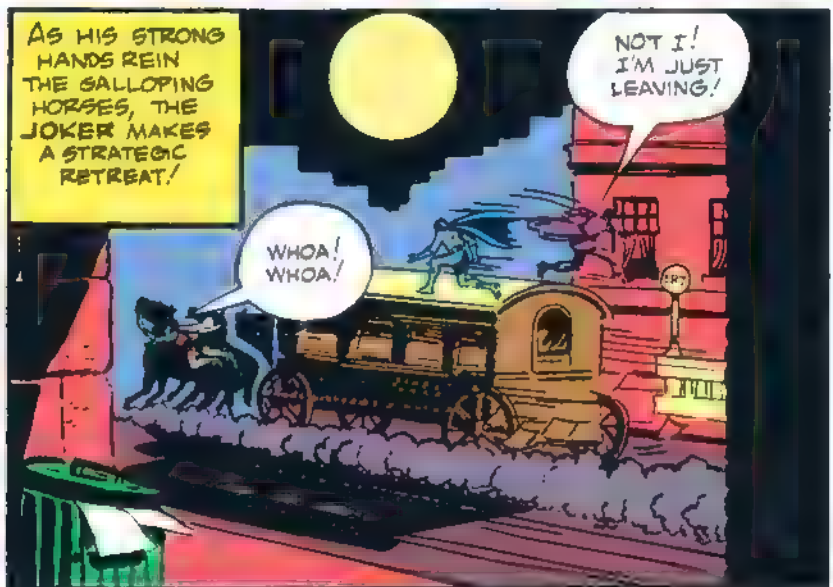
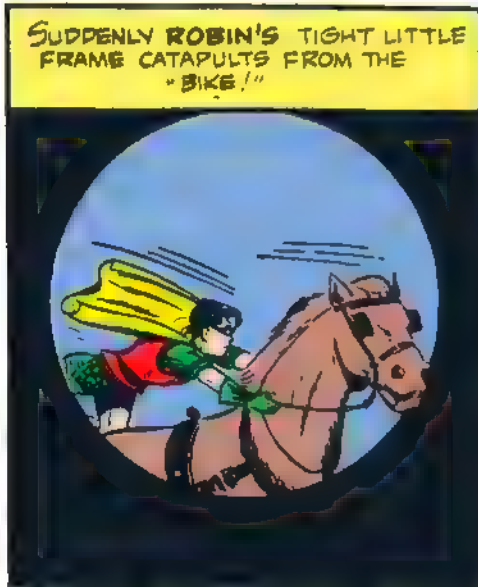
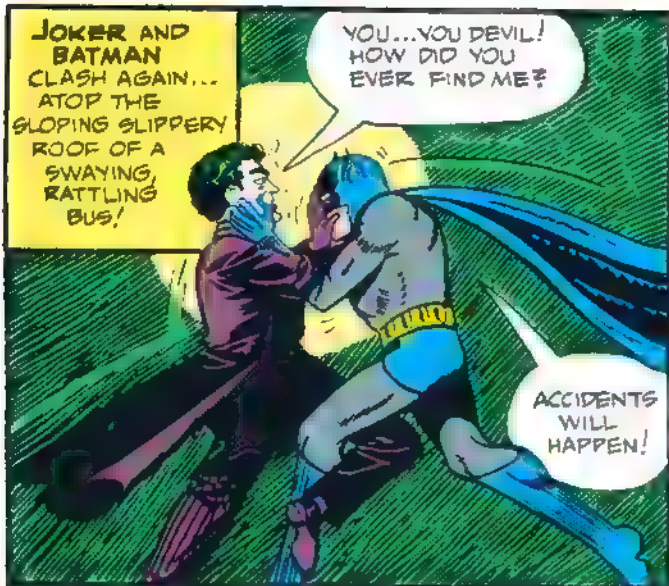


AND SO THE GOTHAM GAZETTE PUBLISHES THIS FULL-PAGE AD.









Later...

WANTED

OLD VEHICLES FOR GAY NINETIES MOTIVATION PICTURES! WILL PAY BIG PRICES DELIVER SHARPLY AT 8 P.M. ONLY! MAJOR PICTURES, 68 MORRIS ST.

THERE! THAT'S THE AD THAT DID THE TRICK FOR THE JOKER!

BY MAKING ALL THOSE OLD BUGGIES APPEAR AT THE SAME TIME, AND BY PURPOSELY PICKING A NARROW STREET, THE JOKER BLOCKED OFF ALL PURSUIT BY THE POLICE! 68 MORRIS STREET HAPPENS TO BE A STORE NEXT DOOR TO THE JEWELER'S. CLEVER, EH?

AND HOW! I WONDER WHAT TRICK HE'S GOING TO PULL OUT OF HIS HAT NEXT?

THE NEXT DAY, THE TWO EAGERLY SCAN THE WANT ADS.

NO, NOT A THING HERE THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS!

AND DON'T FORGET, ANYTHING HERE MIGHT BE USED FOR CRIME IN SOME WAY... BUT HOW CAN WE PICK THE RIGHT ONE?

THE SAME AD IS READ BY THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE...

WANTED

POLICE TO KEEP AWAY CROWDS THAT WILL MOB THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE OF PRESTO THE MAGICIAN AT THE GOTHAM THEATER!

HA! HA! HERE'S A WANT AD! SWELL PUBLICITY STUNT FOR PRESTO, EH?

SAY ALMOST FORGOT! I'M GOING TO THAT SHOW, LINDA MAY PHONE IF SHE CAN MEET ME LATER, SO RELAY HER MESSAGE!

LOVE! AH, LOVE!

EVERYONE THINKS IT'S JUST PUBLICITY. EVEN THE BATMAN WON'T SUSPECT IT AS MY QUAINT WAY OF ADVERTISING ANOTHER CRIME! HA! HA!

WEALTHY "FIRST-NIGHTERS" ATTEND THE PREMIERE OF PRESTO, THE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS MAGICIAN!

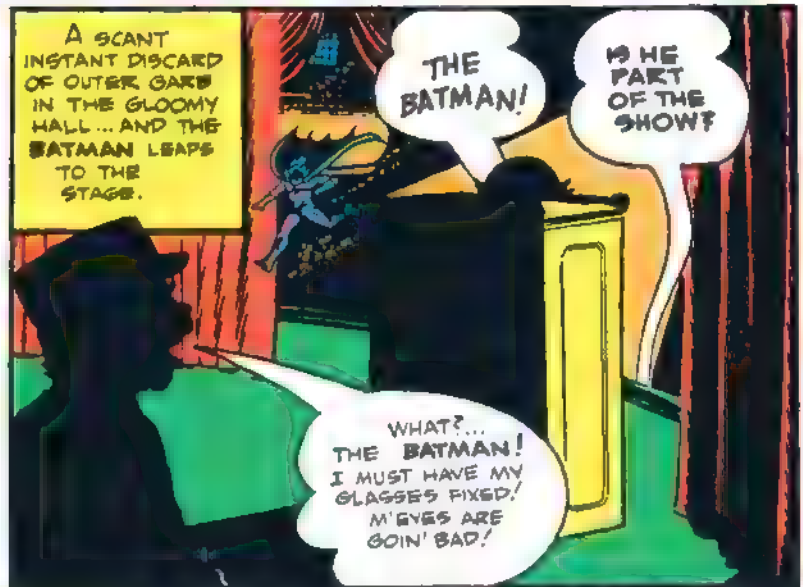
FOR MY FIRST TRICK, I WILL NEED SOME ASSISTANCE, AND SO I WILL CHOOSE THREE LADIES FROM AMONG YOU...

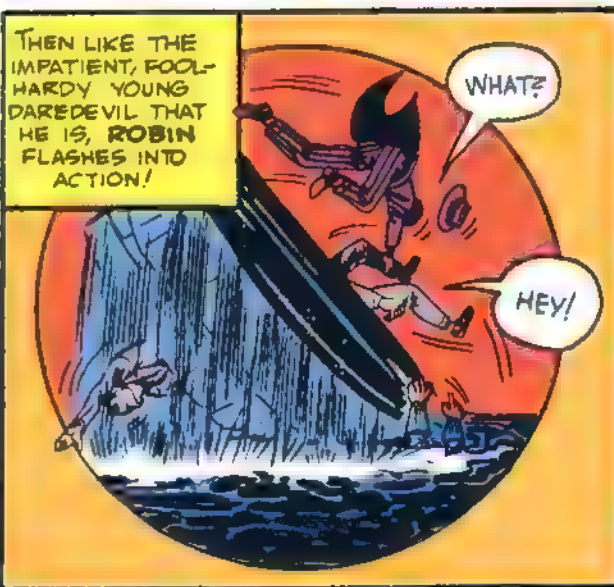
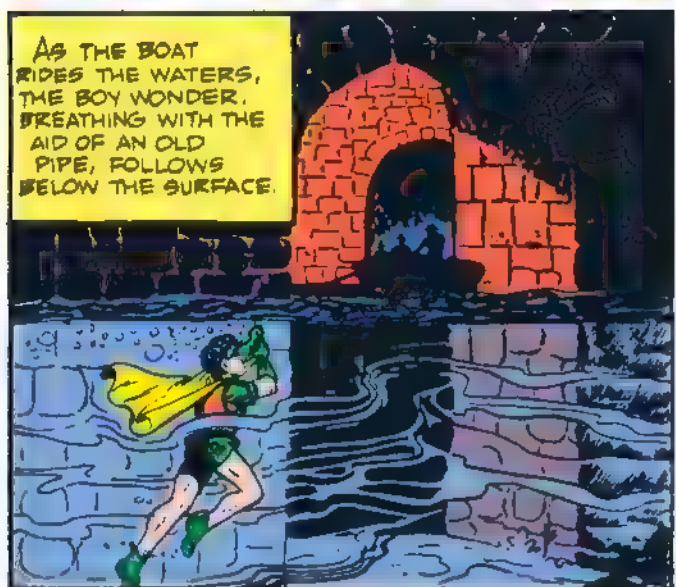
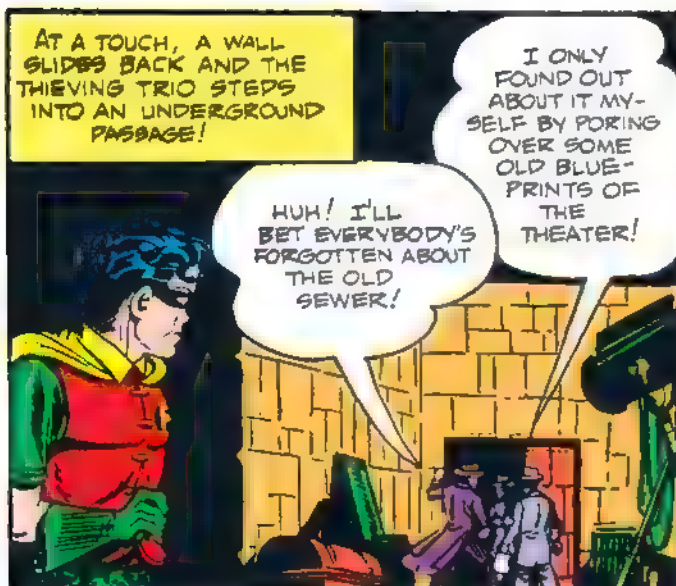
AT THAT INSTANT, LINDA'S MESSAGE BRINGS DICK BEFORE THE THEATRE IN TIME TO OVERHEAR...

YOU MEAN, THAT YOU, THE PUBLICITY AGENT, DIDN'T PLACE THAT AD IN THE PAPER?

I WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF IT, BUT I DIDN'T! THE PAPER GOT THE MONEY AND INSTRUCTIONS ANONYMOUSLY THROUGH THE MAIL. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

BUT I CAN - THE JOKER!





THIS IS PLAIN SULPHUR. ITS FUMES CAN OVERPOWER A HUMAN! HA! HA! SUFFOCATES! JUST LIKE A BLANKET! HA! HA! SLEEP WELL! HA-HA! GOOD JOKE, EH? HA! HA!

THE DOOR CLOSES...AND HELPLESS ROBIN IS LEFT ALONE TO FACE A HORRIBLE, CHOKING DOOM!

I CAN'T GET LOOSE! I CAN'T GET LOOSE... COUGH!

MINUTES PASS AND THE SULPHUROUS FUMES RISE THICKLY ABOUT THE BOY LIKE A MALIGNANT CLOUD!

(COUGH) I'M GOING TO DIE... NO... MUSTN'T LOSE MY HEAD... MUST THINK... THINK...(COUGH)

SUDDENLY ROBIN'S PROBING FINGERS ENCOUNTER A WIRE...

A TELEPHONE WIRE... PROBABLY DISCONNECTED A LONG TIME AGO! IT'S SPICED AT THIS POINT! MAYBE... MAYBE...

FUMBLING IN THEIR MASTE, HIS FINGERS SLOWLY, LABORIOUSLY UNWIND THE TAPE FROM THE SPICED WIRES.

IT MIGHT WORK...THERE'S A CHANCE...I'VE GOT A CHANCE!

THEN, WHEN THE SPICED WIRES ARE UNWOUND, ROBIN TAPS ONE WIRE AGAINST THE OTHER...

OUT INTO SPACE GOES A CALL FOR HELP! WILL IT BE HEARD... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE?

LISTEN, MISS HENLEY, THIS S.O.S. HAS BEEN COMING OVER FOR THE LAST FEW MINUTES!

CALL THE POLICE! THEY'LL TRACE IT WITH THEIR SIGNAL-FINDER! HURRY!

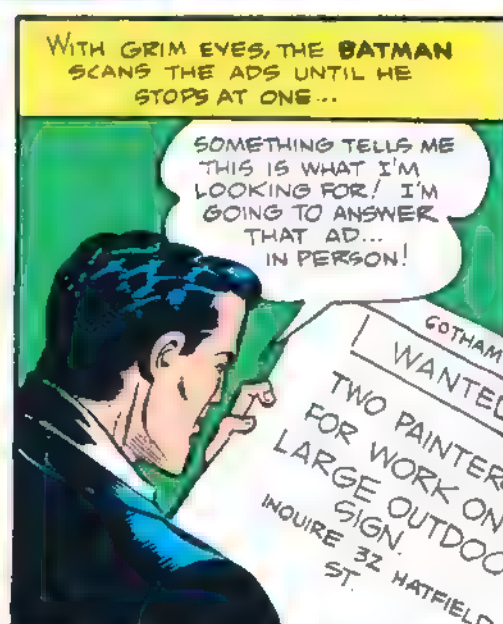
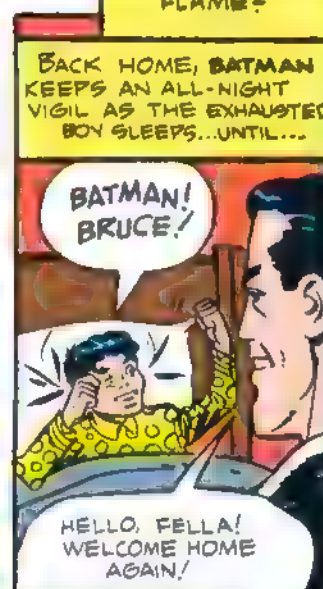
AND SO A DESPERATE MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED OVER THE WIRES.

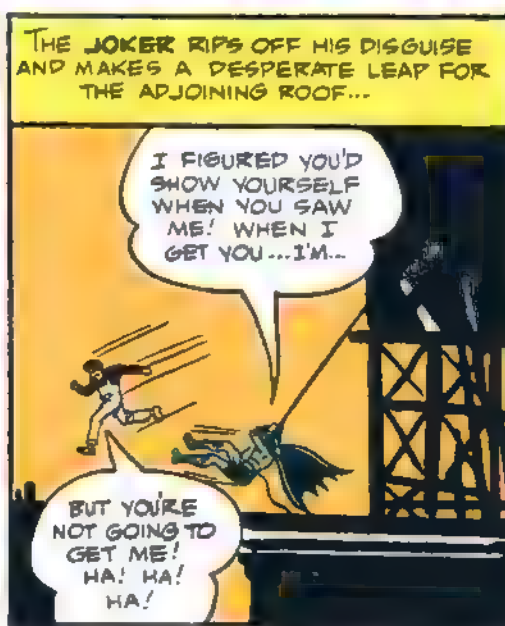
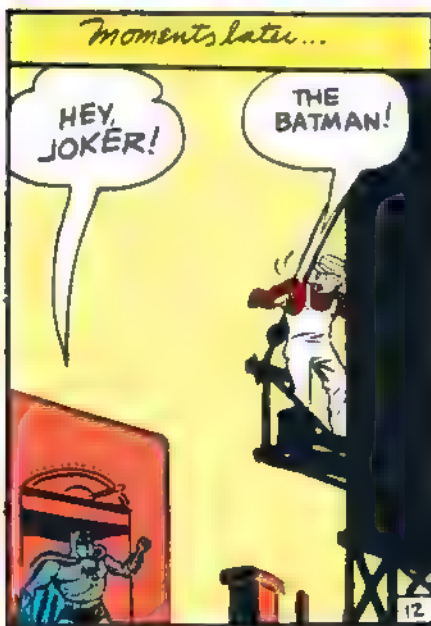
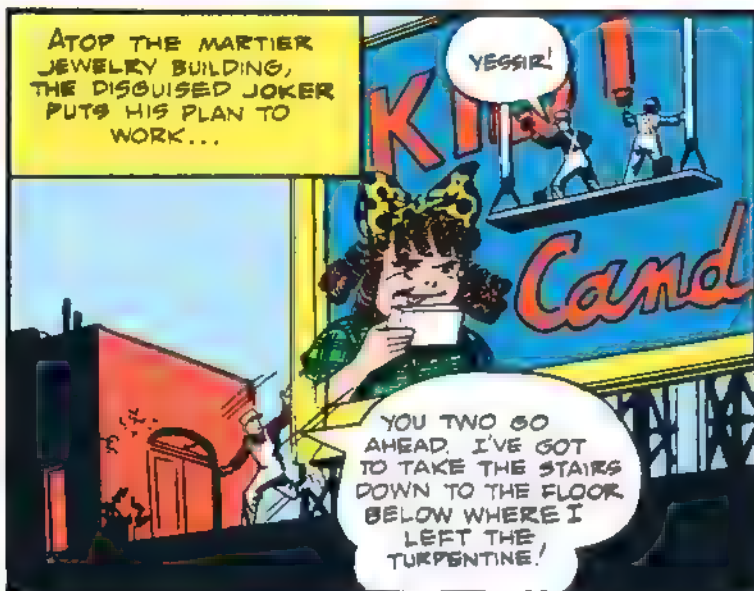
WILL IT BE PICKED UP BY THE BATMAN... IN TIME?

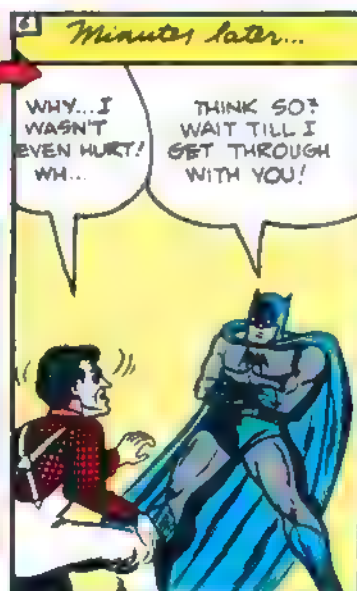
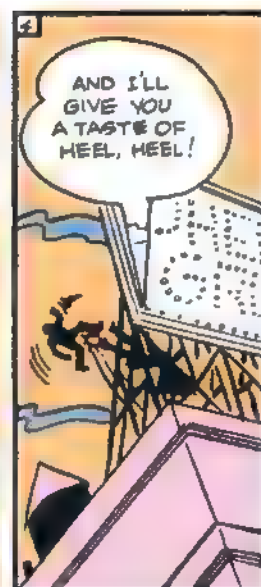
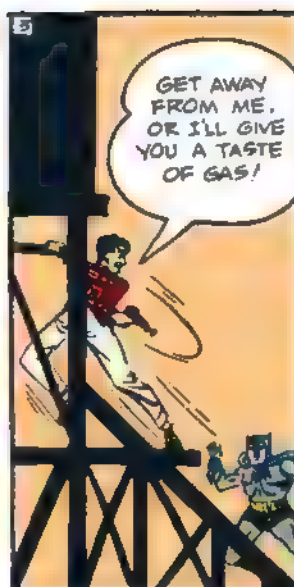
MINUTES LATER... A POWERFUL FRAME RIPS A DOOR FROM ITS HINGES...

(COUGH) ROBIN, ROBIN! HE'S LYING SO STILL! MAYBE...NO... IT CAN'T BE!!

WHAM







BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
BOY WONDER

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL --- BUT MANY ARE THE TRAILS THEY FOLLOW THROUGH THEIR ENDINGS. VERY DIFFERENT THEIR STORY OF HERE IS THE STRANGE TOGETHER BUT TWO WHO STARTED APART --- THE FINISHED A WORLD AND SUCCESSFUL, ONE HONORED AND DOOMED BY HIS MISDEEDS! IT IS A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND TREACHERY, OF VIOLENCE AND HEROISM --- AND OF A HUMAN PROBLEM SO KNOTTY BRAINS IT TOOK THE NIMBLE OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER TO SOLVE IT! IN THE CASEBOOK OF THE BATMAN, IT IS CALLED ---

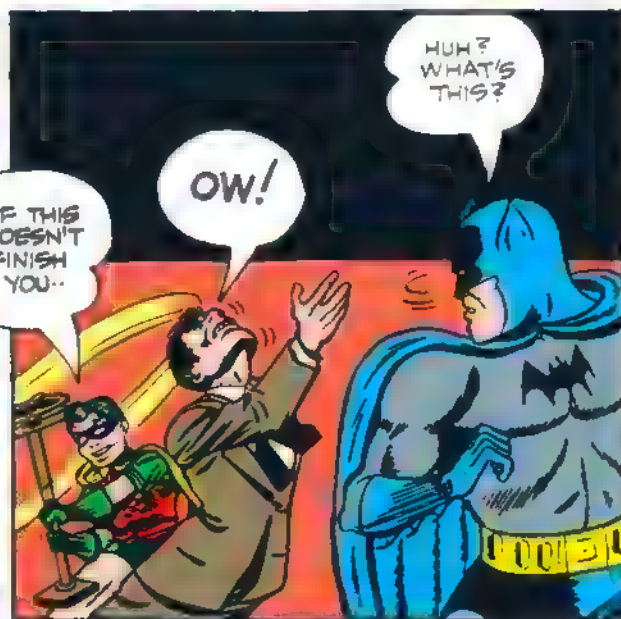
"Payment in Full."

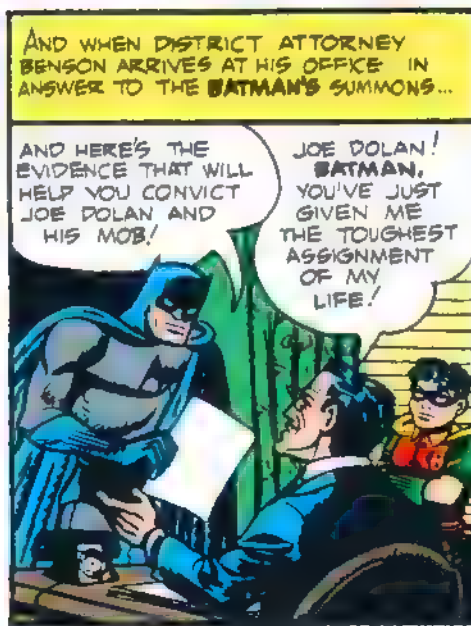
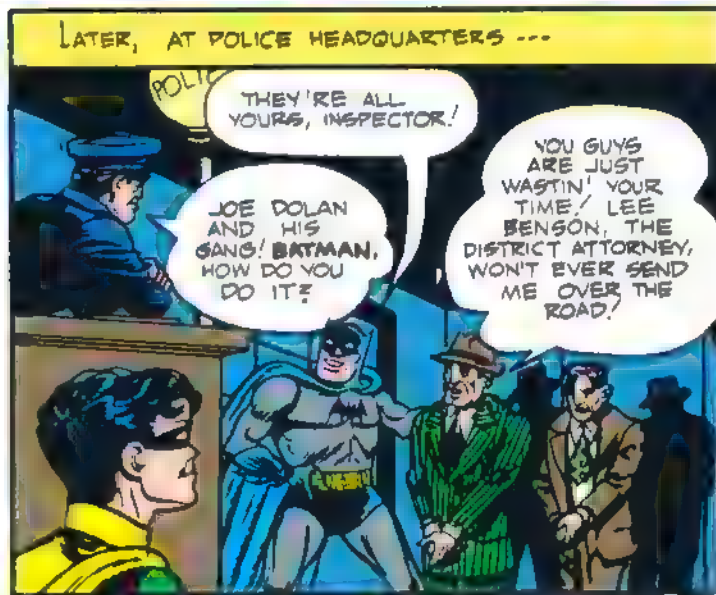
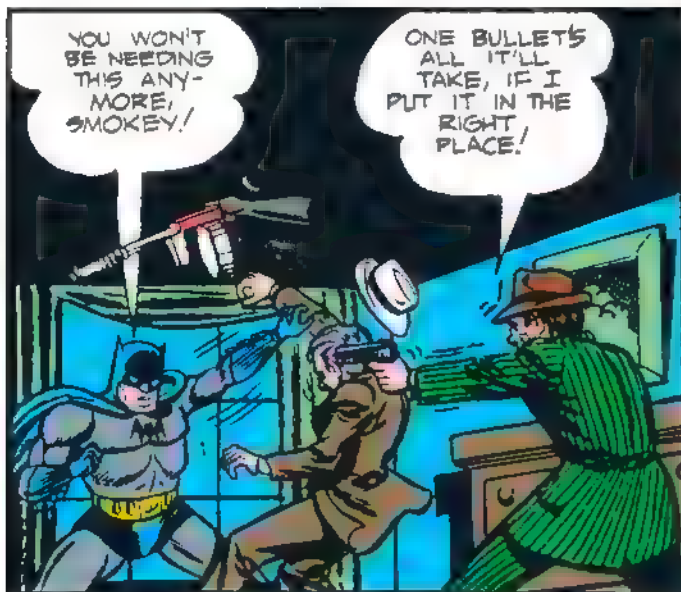


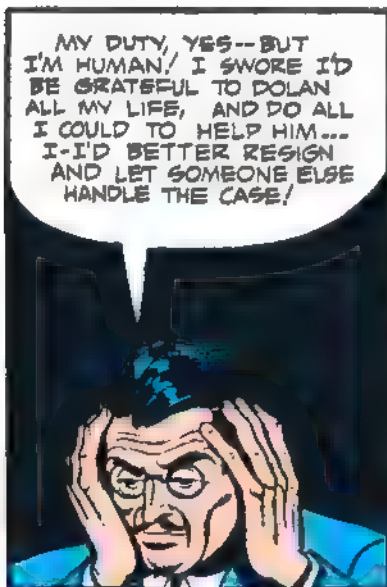
NIGHT...AND TWO CAPED FIGURES REACH THE END OF A THRILLING MANHUNT---

HERE IT IS, ROBIN... THE HIDEOUT OF JOE DOLAN, WANTED ROBBER AND MURDERER!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR!







MY DUTY, YES-- BUT I'M HUMAN! I SWORE I'D BE GRATEFUL TO DOLAN ALL MY LIFE, AND DO ALL I COULD TO HELP HIM... I-I'D BETTER RESIGN AND LET SOMEONE ELSE HANDLE THE CASE!



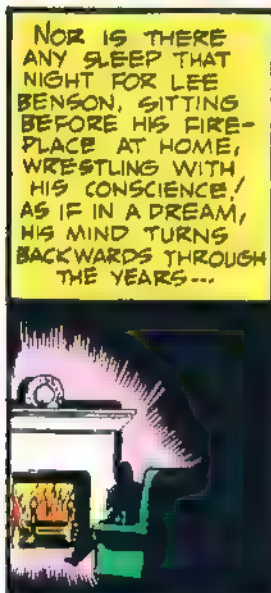
THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU, AND YOU CAN'T LET THEM DOWN! PROMISE ME YOU'LL TAKE THE NIGHT TO THINK IT OVER!

I--OH, BATMAN... I PROMISE!

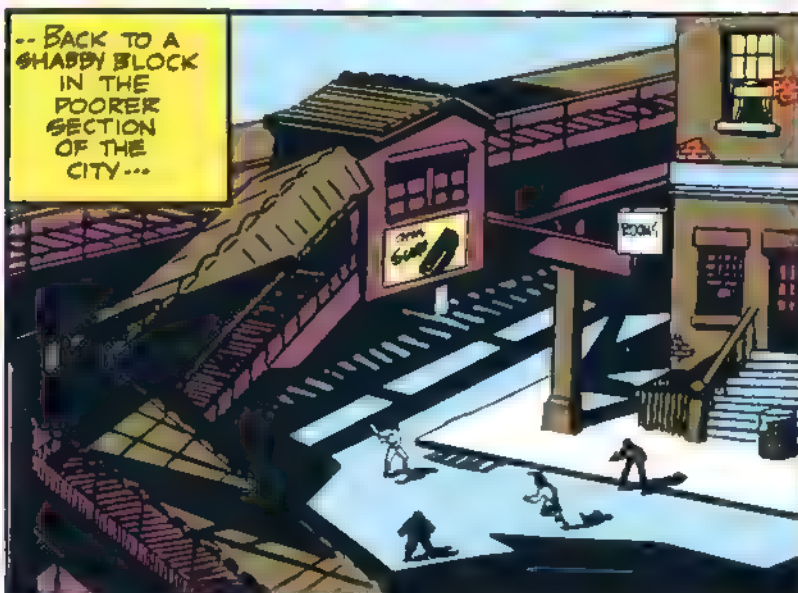


NOW FOR BED! BUT I WON'T SLEEP FOR WONDERING WHAT BENSON WILL DECIDE.

IT WILL BE HARD FOR HIM, BUT HE'LL DECIDE IN THE ONLY WAY AN HONEST MAN COULD. HE'LL PROSECUTE DOLAN!



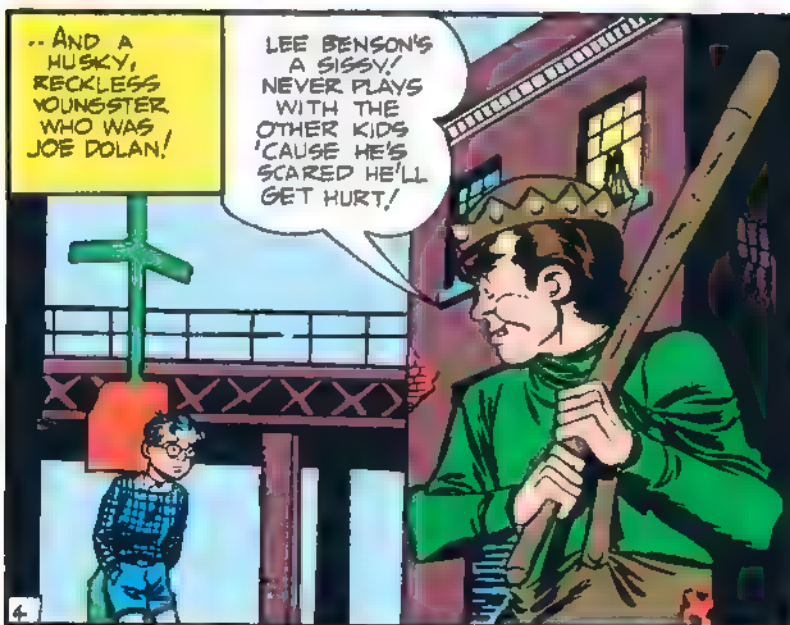
NOR IS THERE ANY SLEEP THAT NIGHT FOR LEE BENSON, SITTING BEFORE HIS FIRE-PLACE AT HOME, WRESTLING WITH HIS CONSCIENCE! AS IF IN A DREAM, HIS MIND TURNS BACKWARDS THROUGH THE YEARS---



-- BACK TO A SHABBY BLOCK IN THE POORER SECTION OF THE CITY---



--AND A FRAIL, TIMID BOY WHO WAS HIMSELF---



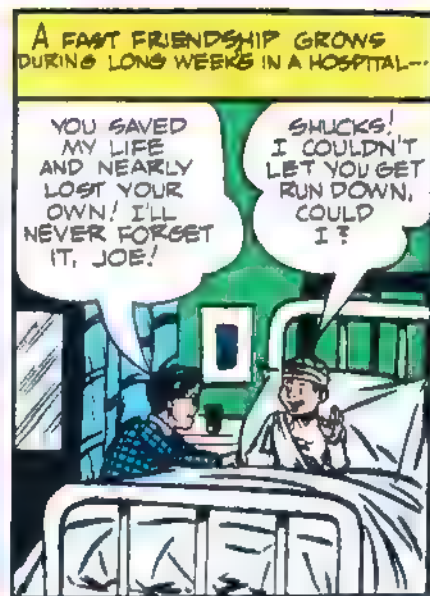
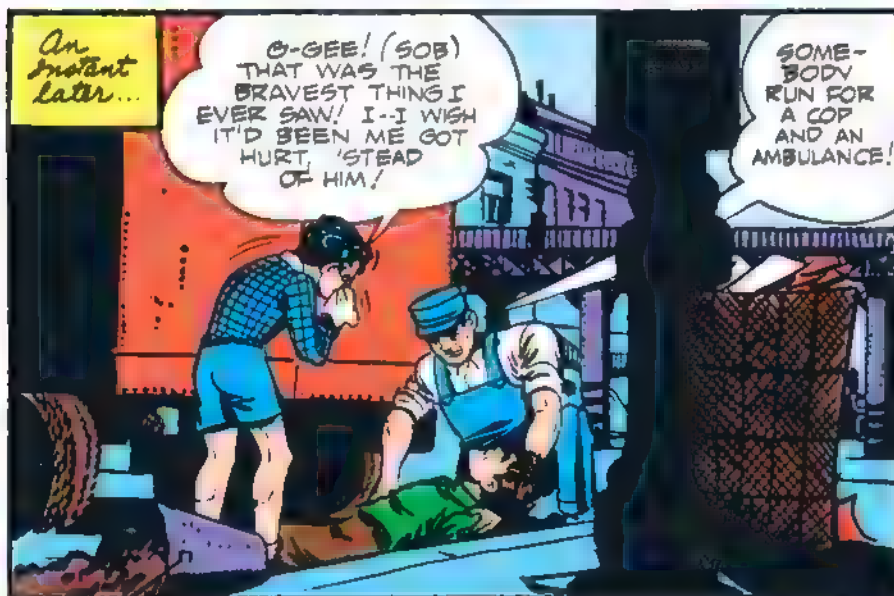
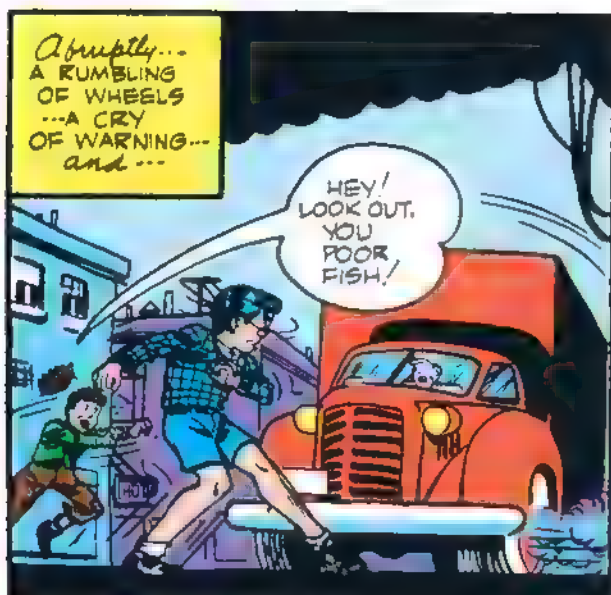
-- AND A HUSKY, RECKLESS YOUNGSTER WHO WAS JOE DOLAN!

LEE BENSON'S A SISSY! NEVER PLAYS WITH THE OTHER KIDS 'CAUSE HE'S SCARED HE'LL GET HURT!

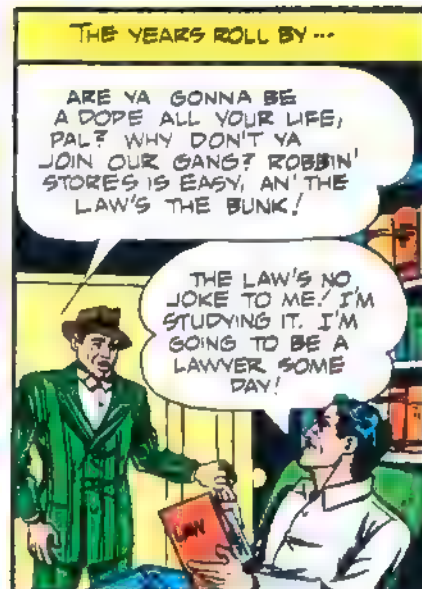


BLINDED BY TEARS OF LONELINESS, THE SHY BOY TURNS TO RUN FROM HIS TORMENTOR---

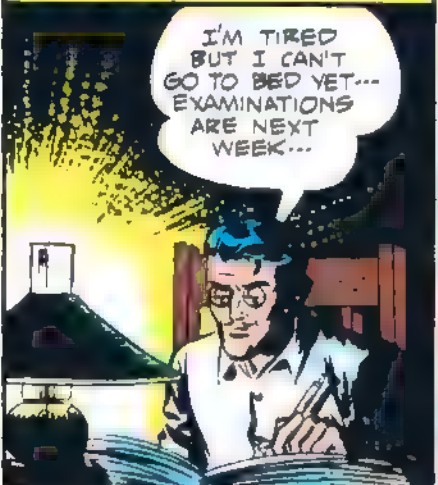
GOLLY-- WHY CAN'T I BE POPULAR LIKE JOE DOLAN AND THE REST OF THE KIDS?



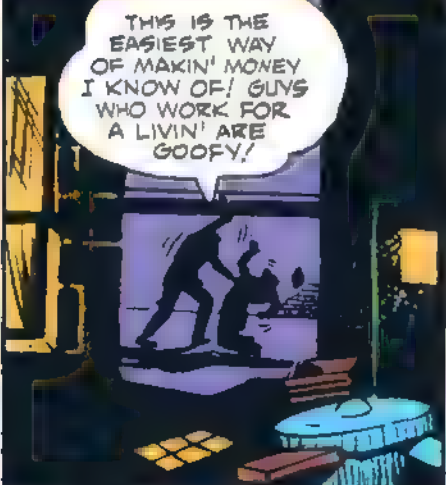
BUT AS THE YEARS PASS, A CHANGE COMES OVER JOE DOLAN---



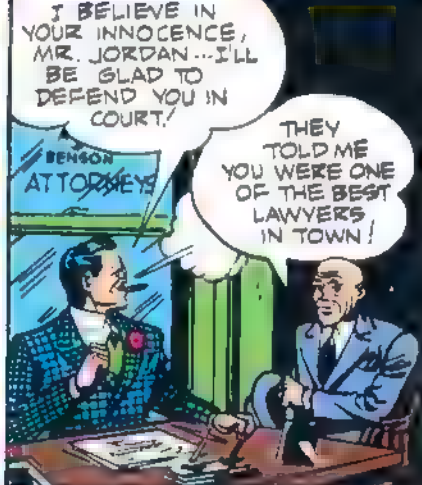
NOW THE FRIENDS BEGIN TO DRIFT APART, AS LEE SPENDS HIS NIGHTS WITH HIS BOOKS---

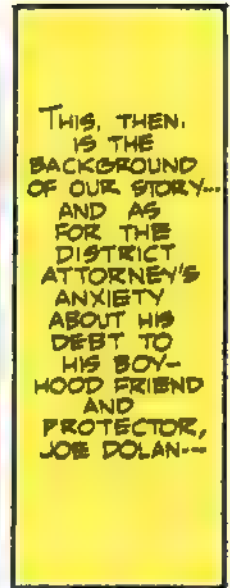
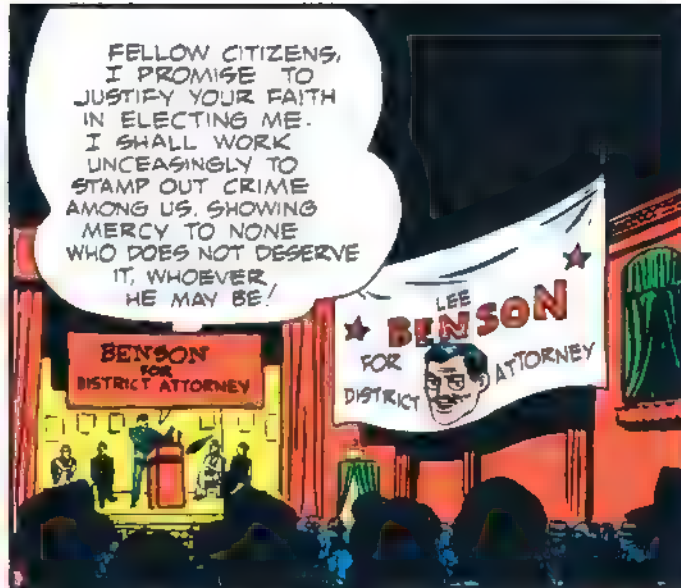
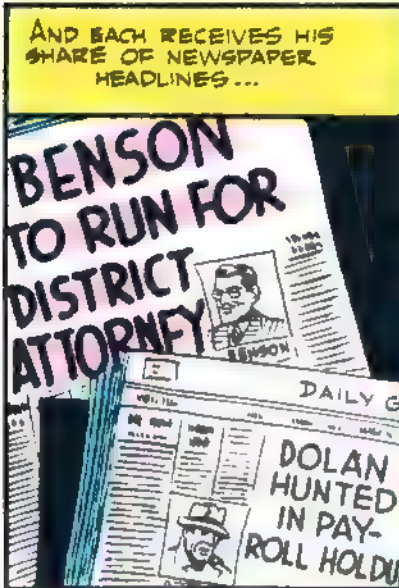


AND JOE'S NIGHTS ARE SPENT IN ANOTHER KIND OF ENDEAVOR.

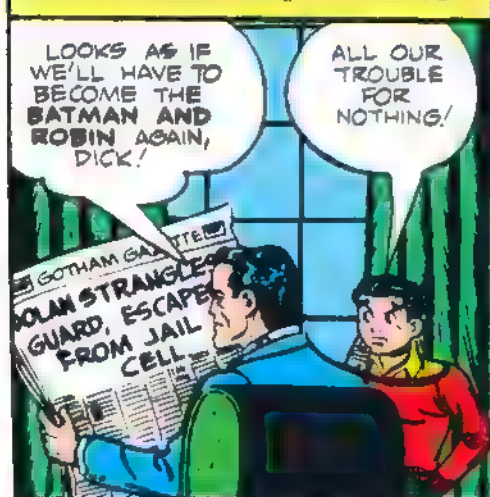


BOTH ADVANCE RAPIDLY IN THEIR CHOSEN CAREERS---

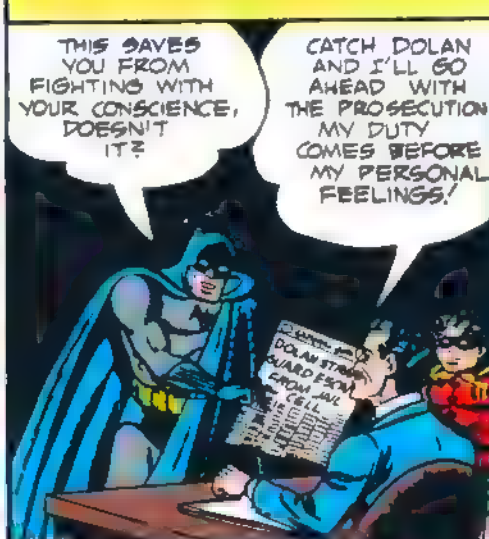




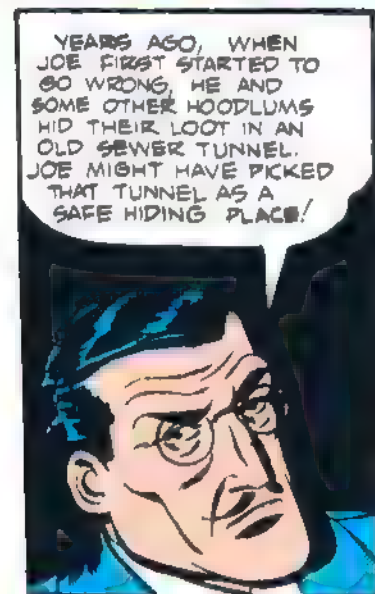
NEXT MORNING'S HEADLINES PROVE STARTLING TO BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON--



IN BENSON'S OFFICE...



THEN I'LL TRY AND ROUND HIM UP FOR YOU AGAIN. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT BE HEADED?



INSIDE THE GLOOMY CELLAR--THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEADS THE DUO TOWARDS AN ABANDONED BOILER--



MEANWHILE, IN A CAVERN-LIKE RECESS OF THE TUNNEL---

THIS IS WORSE'N JAIL! THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT IT IS I CAN LEAVE WHENEVER I WANT! BAH! THIS SOLITAIRE IS GETTIN' ON ME NERVES!



DISTANT SOUNDS MAKE THE FUGITIVE INSTANTLY ALERT---

WHAT'S THAT?... PROBABLY RATS---BUT, I BETTER MAKE SURE!



CREEPING INTO THE TUNNEL, THE JITTERY DOLAN SPIES A SHADOWY SILHOUETTE...

CAN'T SEE INTO THAT DARKNESS, WHO'S THERE? SPEAK UP, OR I'LL BLAST YA!



BENSON MAKES A FORLORN ATTEMPT TO REASON WITH HIS ONE-TIME FRIEND---

IT'S LEE BENSON, JOE! SURRENDER AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOU'LL HAVE A FAIR TRIAL!

I'M AFRAID HE WON'T LIKE YOUR PROPOSITION!

WHAT? BENSON?



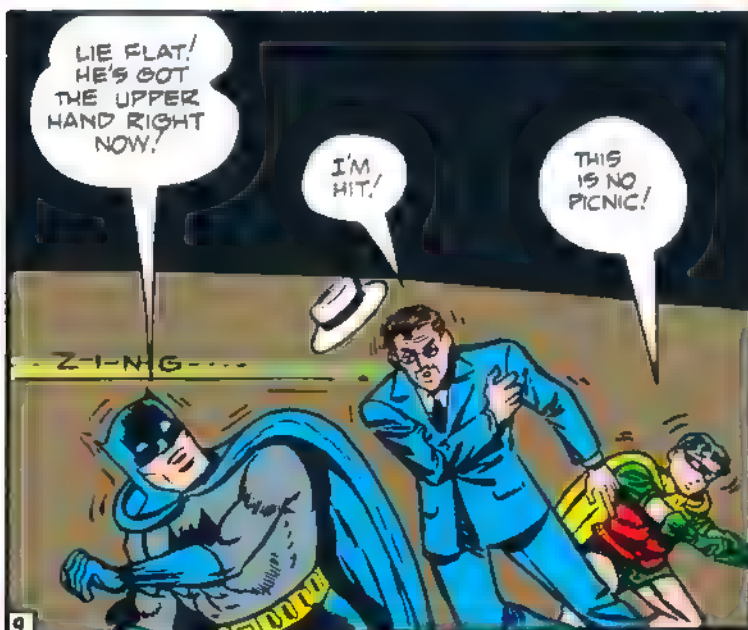
BENSON! YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING HEEL! I SHOULDA LET THAT TRUCK RUN OVER YOU!



LIE FLAT! HE'S GOT THE UPPER HAND RIGHT NOW!

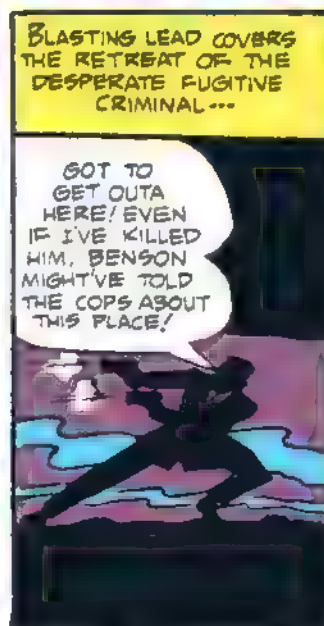
I'M HIT!

THIS IS NO PICNIC!



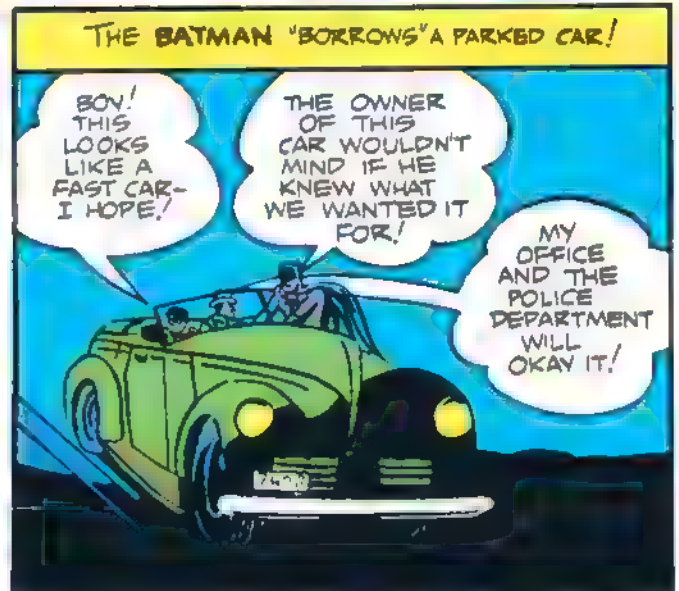
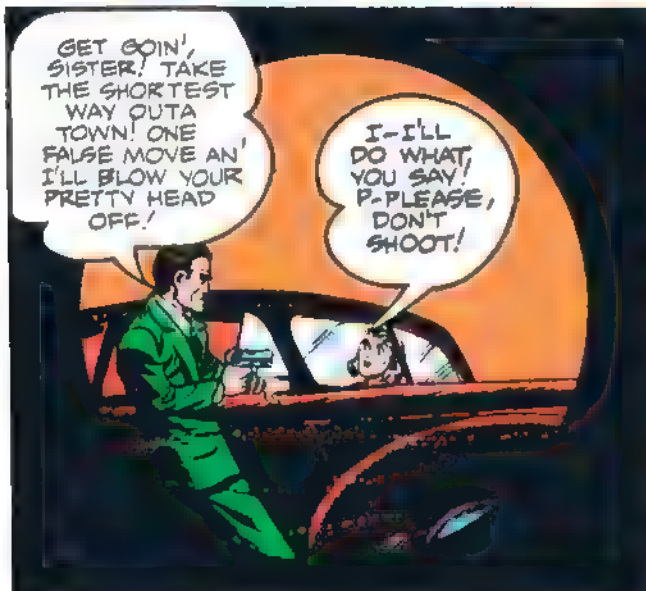
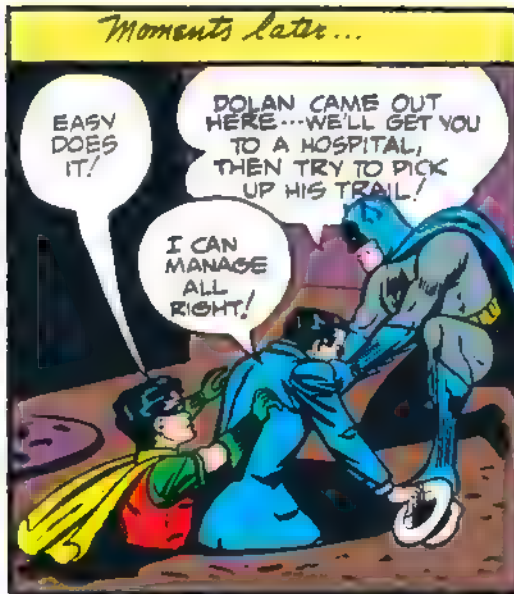
BLASTING LEAD COVERS THE RETREAT OF THE DESPERATE FUGITIVE CRIMINAL---

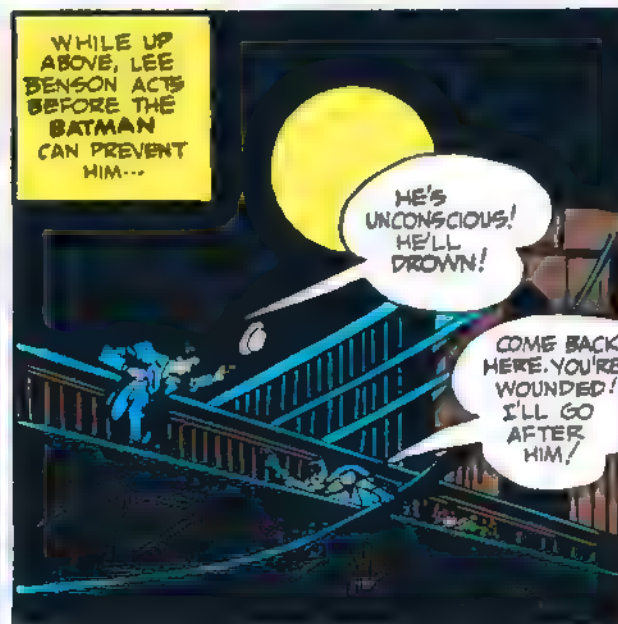
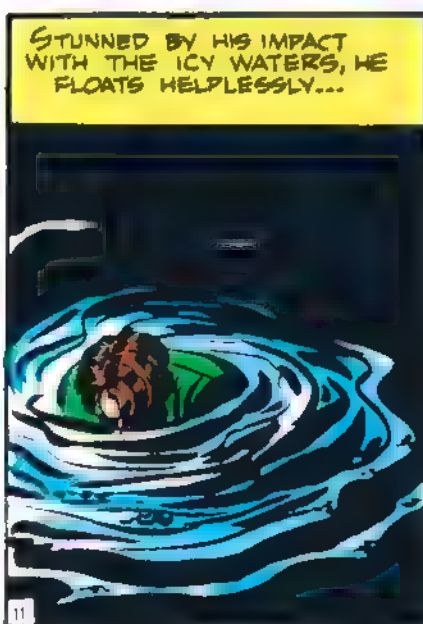
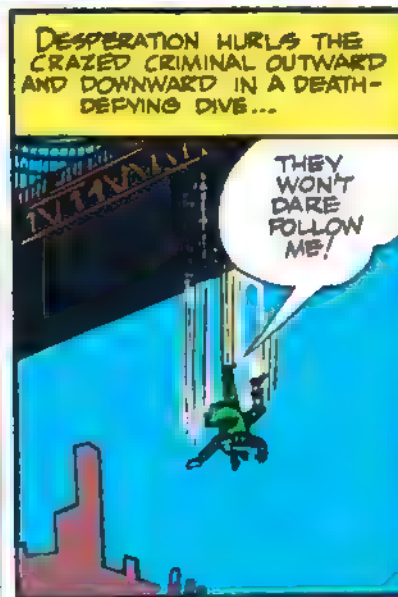
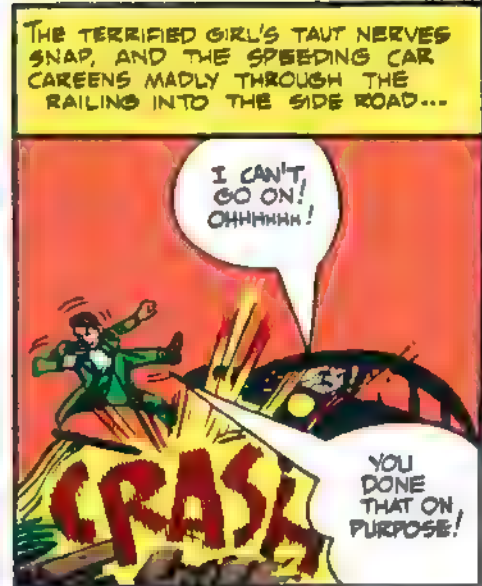
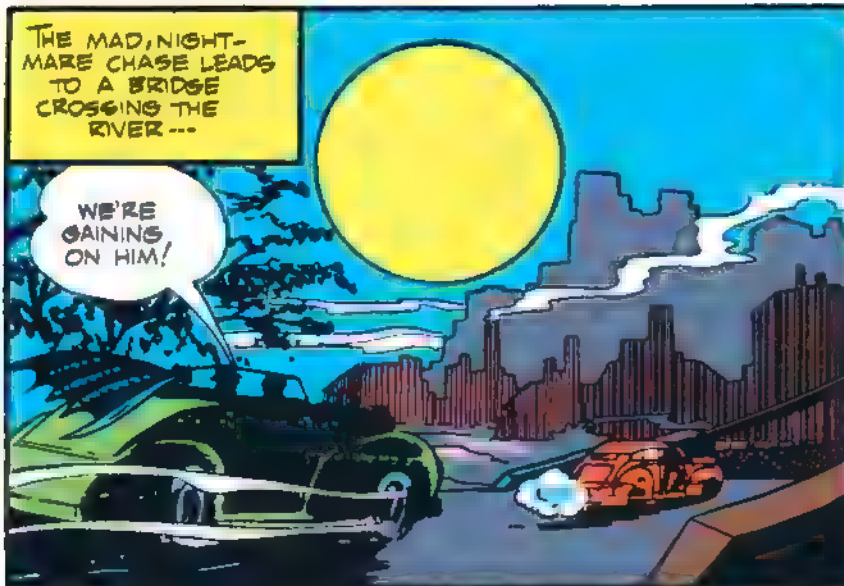
GOT TO GET OUTA HERE! EVEN IF I'VE KILLED HIM, BENSON MIGHT'VE TOLD THE COPS ABOUT THIS PLACE!



THIS TOWN'S GETTIN' TOO HOT FOR ME! I BETTER TAKE IT ON THE LAM TILL THINGS COOL DOWN!







WEAKENED BY HIS WOUND, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY STROKES FEEBLY TO THE SIDE OF THE SENSELESS DOLAN...

I'LL SAVE HIM...OR DIE TRYING!

AND TWO MANTLED FIGURES PLUMMET SWIFTLY TO HIS AID...

THEY'LL NEVER GET TO SHORE WITHOUT HELP!

THIS IS THE HIGHEST DIVE I EVER WANT TO MAKE!

BUT SUPERHUMAN EFFORT DRIVES LEE BENSON BEYOND THE LIMITS OF ORDINARY STRENGTH--

HUH? WHERE AM I? WHO'S GOT HOLD OF ME?

IT'S LEE... YOUR OLD CHUM-- REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAVED MY LIFE?

NOW... WE'RE EVEN! I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!

BUT I OWE YOU SOMETHIN', COPPER!

OH, WOULDN'T IT?

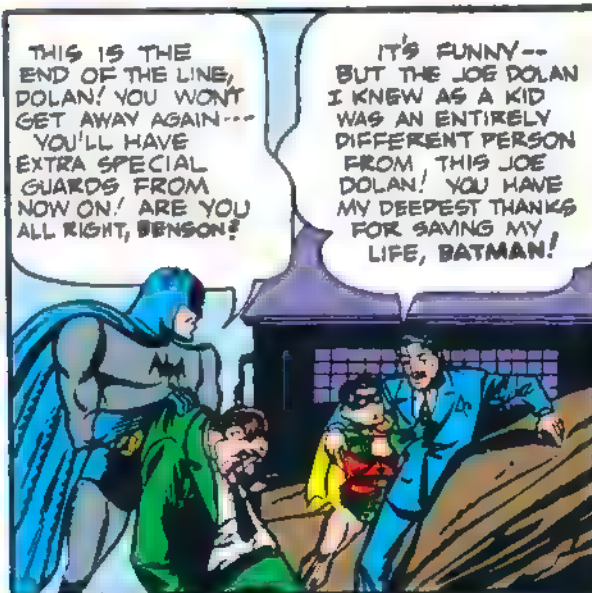
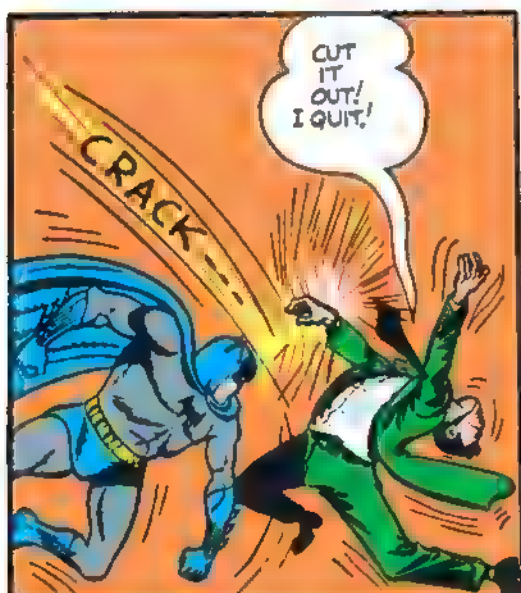
JOE! YOU...YOU WOULDN'T!

YOU'RE JUST THE KIND OF SISSY THAT WOULD REMEMBER OLD TIMES! BUT ME, I'M TOUGH! I ONLY WORRY ABOUT MYSELF! AFTER THIS HITS YOU, YOU WON'T GO PUTTIN' THE BATMAN ON MY TRAIL NO MORE!

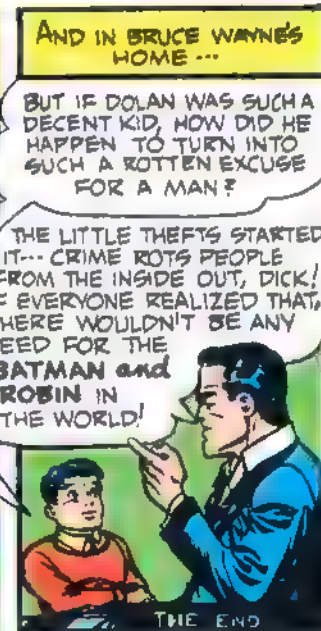
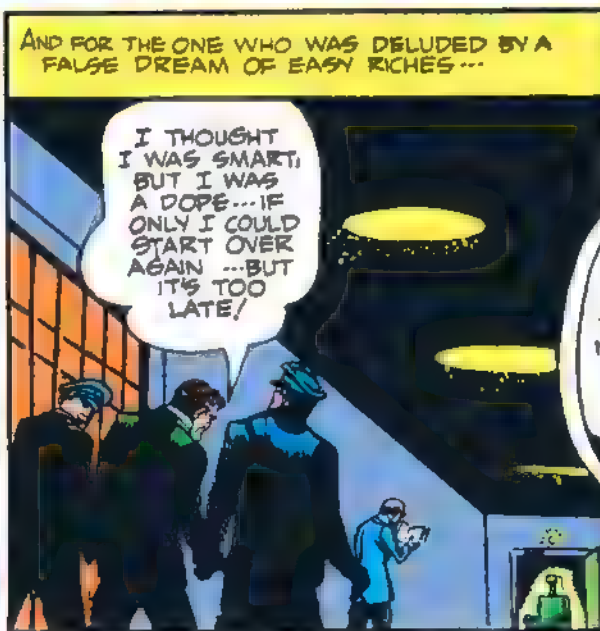
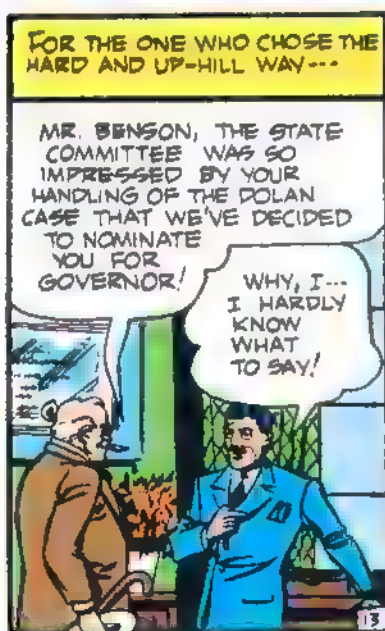
IN HIS BLIND FRENZY, THE KILLER DOES NOT SEE THE CHARGING AGENTS OF HIS DOOM...

ANOTHER SECOND WILL BE TOO LATE!

MAYBE THIS PIECE OF DRIFTWOOD WILL HELP!



TWO SEPARATE PATHS--AND AT THEIR ENDS THE REWARDS THAT FATE HAS SET ASIDE FOR THE MEN WHO CHOSE TO TRAVEL THEM, OUT OF ALL THE MANY PATHS IN LIFE---



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

BOB
KANE

R. H. STACY'S



DEPARTMENT STORE

IN THE LAW COURTS OF THE
LAND, MEN ARE OFTEN WEIGHED
ON THE SCALES OF JUSTICE AND
RIGHTFULLY FOUND WANTING.
BUT SOMETIMES THOSE
DELICATE SCALES ARE TILTED
BY A HUMAN HAND WITH A
SINISTER PURPOSE...AND
AN INNOCENT MAN'S LIFE IS
FOREVER RUINED!
AS A MIGHTY BARRIER AGAINST
THESE ERRORS OF JUSTICE LOOMS
THE STALWART CAPED FORM OF
THE BATMAN! FOLLOW HIM NOW
ON A MISSION OF MERCY AS
HE AND ROBIN SET OUT
ON THE HIGH-TENSION
ADVENTURE OF...
"Bandits in Toyland!"



A TENSE,
STIRRING
STRUGGLE...



...AND THE SINEWY FIGURE OF THE
MIGHTY BATMAN IS SENT SPINNING THRU
THE AIR BY A PAIR OF STURDY LEGS!

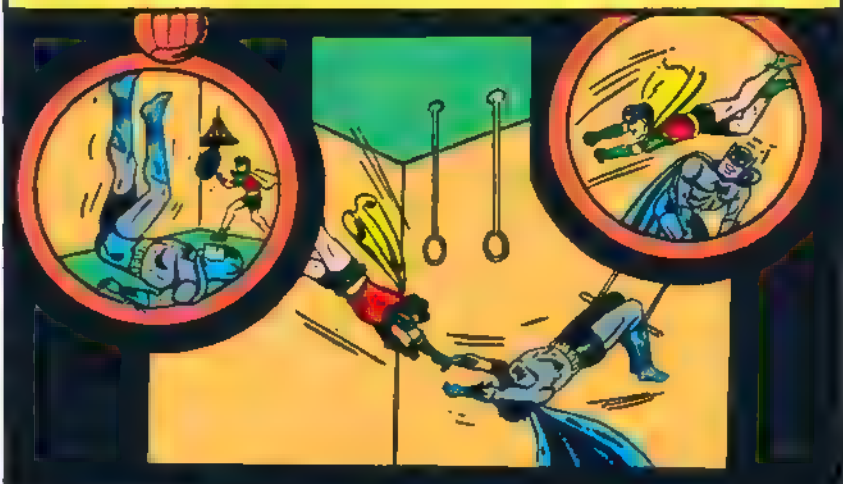
BUT HIS OPPONENT IS ONLY ROBIN THE BOY WONDER...IN A WRESTLING DRILL WITH A MASTER COACH!



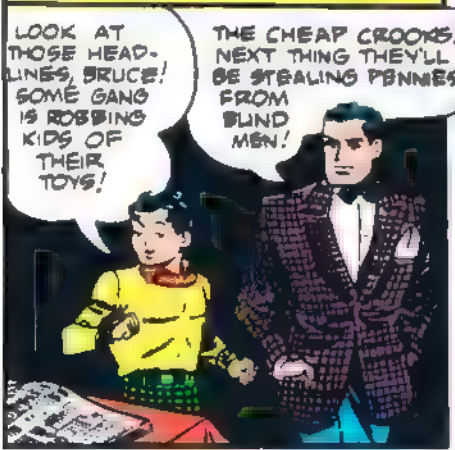
WELL, I BROKE THAT HOLD, BATMAN!

GOOD WORK, ROBIN! NOW LET'S TACKLE SOME OTHER EXERCISE! PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT, YOU KNOW!

YES, PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT! THAT IS THE SECRET BEHIND THE DARING DEEDS AND PHENOMENAL FEATS OF THE TWIN ROSES OF CRIME!



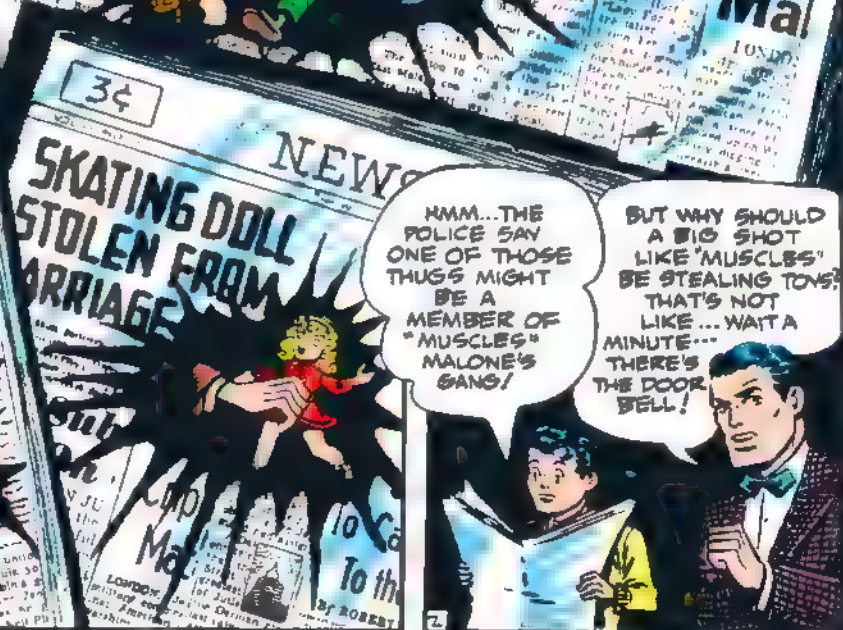
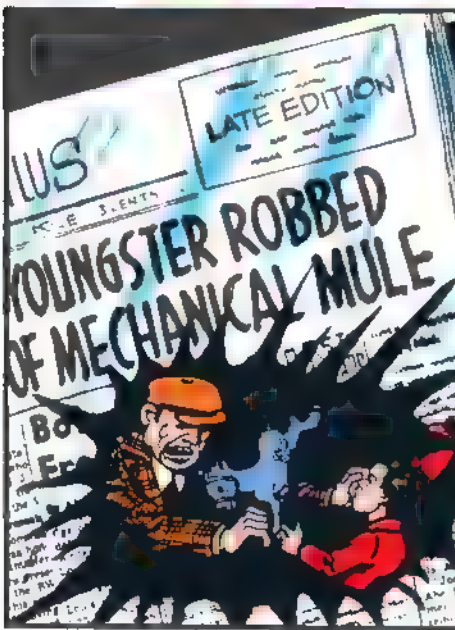
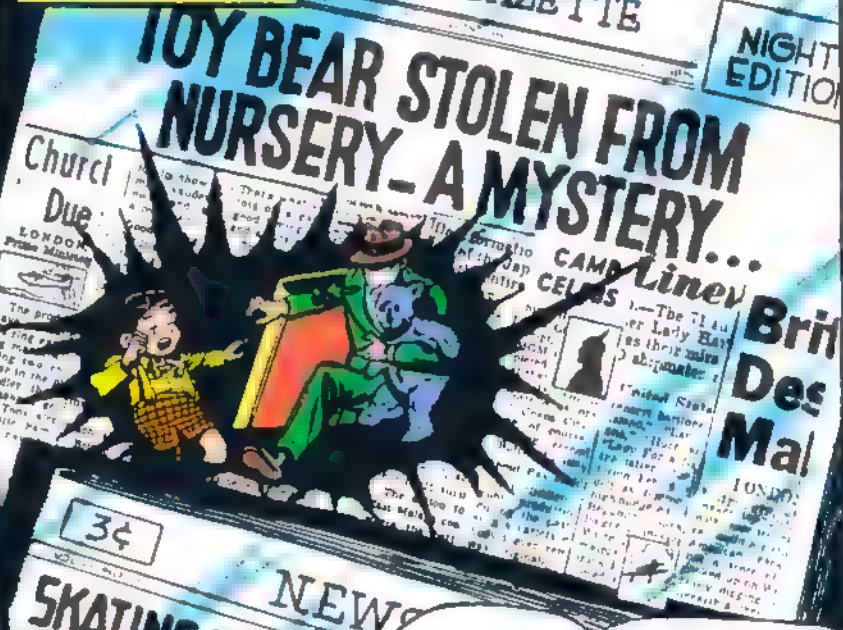
A BRISK SHOWER, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO DRESS FOR THEIR EVERYDAY ROLES OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!



LOOK AT THOSE HEADLINES, BRUCE! SOME GANG IS ROBBING KIDS OF THEIR TOYS!

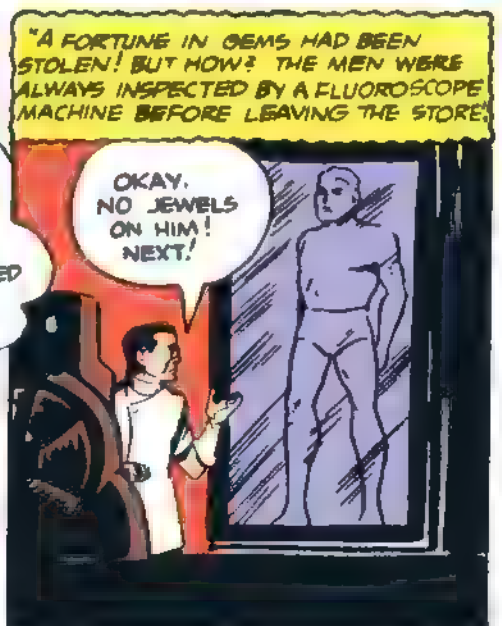
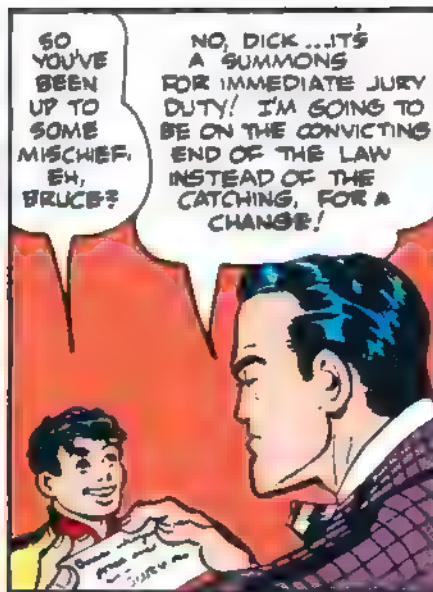
THE CHEAP CROOKS! NEXT THING THEY'LL BE STEALING PANNIES FROM BLIND MEN!

BOLD HEADLINES CONJURE UP A PUZZLING CRIME PICTURE!



HMM...THE POLICE SAY ONE OF THOSE THUGS MIGHT BE A MEMBER OF "MUSCLES" MALONE'S GANG!

BUT WHY SHOULD A BIG SHOT LIKE "MUSCLES" BE STEALING TOYS? THAT'S NOT LIKE...WAIT A MINUTE...THERE'S THE DOOR BELL!



"A STORE DETECTIVE AND I SEARCHED THE LOCKERS WHERE THE EMPLOYEES KEPT THEIR COATS-AND IN ONE OF THEM..."

HERE ARE SOME OF THOSE JEWELS, MR. BURTON!

AHA! TOM WILLARD'S LOCKER! HE MUST HAVE BEEN ROBBING US FOR MONTHS!

OBVIOUSLY, WILLARD HID THE GEMS IN HIS JACKET DURING BUSINESS HOURS!

THANK YOU, MR. BURTON! THAT WILL BE ALL!

THAT FELLOW DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A CROOK! NICE WIFE, TOO! NO, A JOB LIKE THIS WOULD REQUIRE A CLEVER GANG OF ORGANIZED THIEVES!

SUDDENLY, BRUCE'S ATTENTION IS ATTRACTED BY A PAIR OF FAMILIAR FACES AMONG THE SPECTATORS...

PATSY DAY AND JOHNNY TEAL... MEMBERS OF 'MUSCLES' MALONE'S GANG! WONDER WHAT THEY'RE JOKING ABOUT? I'LL SOON FIND OUT!

KEEN EYES EFFORTLESSLY TRANSLATE THOSE FURTIVELY MOVING MOUTHS... FOR BRUCE WAYNE... THE BATMAN... IS AN ACCOMPLISHED LIP-READER!

SAY, JOHNNY, THAT WILLARD KID LOOKS HOOKED, DON'T HE?

YEAH, THE BIG BOSS FRAMED HIM GOOD!

SO MY HUNCH IS RIGHT! BUT HOW CAN I PREVENT THE LAW FROM MAKING A GRAVE ERROR?

LATER, IN THE JURY ROOM, TWELVE GOOD MEN AND TRUE DECIDE THE FATE OF A FELLOW MAN!

THE THIRD BALLOT... AND IT'S STILL ELEVEN FOR GUILTY AND ONE AGAINST! GENTLEMEN, WE CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL WE REACH A VERDICT. WHO'S HOLDING OUT?

I AM! I THINK WILLARD WAS FRAMED! HOW COULD HE HAVE MANAGED TO SNEAK ALL THOSE GEMS OUT OF THE STORE?

THE ARGUMENT WAKES FURIOUSLY UNTIL DUSK!

TIME FOR DINNER, GENTLEMEN! THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO BE LOCKED UP FOR THE NIGHT AT A HOTEL!

ALL WAYNE'S FAULT! WE'RE KEPT AWAY FROM OUR FAMILIES, JUST BECAUSE HE'S STUBBORN!

HMPH! A LOT THESE WEALTHY PLAYBOYS KNOW ABOUT LAW!

THAT NIGHT, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S HOTEL ROOM...

WHEW! THOSE FELLOWS THINK I'M CRAZY! BUT THAT MAN'S INNOCENT, I KNOW! AND I ONLY HAVE UNTIL MORNING TO PROVE IT!

MINUTES LATER, A MANTLED FIGURE SWINGS OUT INTO THE NIGHT ON AN ERRAND OF JUSTICE—THE BATMAN!

PATSY DAY AND JOHNNY TEAL KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS CASE! HERE I COME, BOYS!

MEANWHILE, YOUNG ROBIN BECOMES RESTLESS...

THAT'S ENOUGH STUDYING! I'M GOING OUT TO SEE WHAT 'MUSCLES' MALONE HAS TO DO WITH THOSE TOY ROBBERIES! WON'T BRUCE BE SURPRISED IF I SOLVE THIS CASE MYSELF!

CLICK!

AT MALONE'S HEAD-QUARTERS...

C'MON, GUYS! FIRST STOP'S THE VAN COURTLEY HOME!

AH! THERE THEY ARE! I'LL TRAIL THEM IN THE BATMOBILE!

LATER... AT THE VAN COURTLEY RESIDENCE ...

THERE'S A TOY AROUND HERE THAT I WANT... A LITTLE TANK! WHERE IS IT?

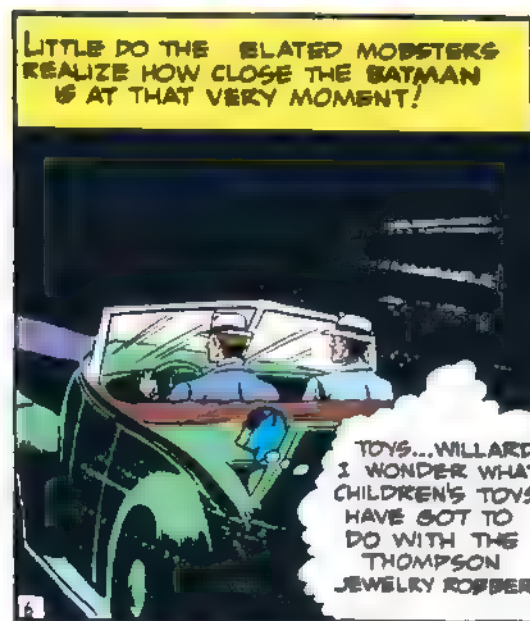
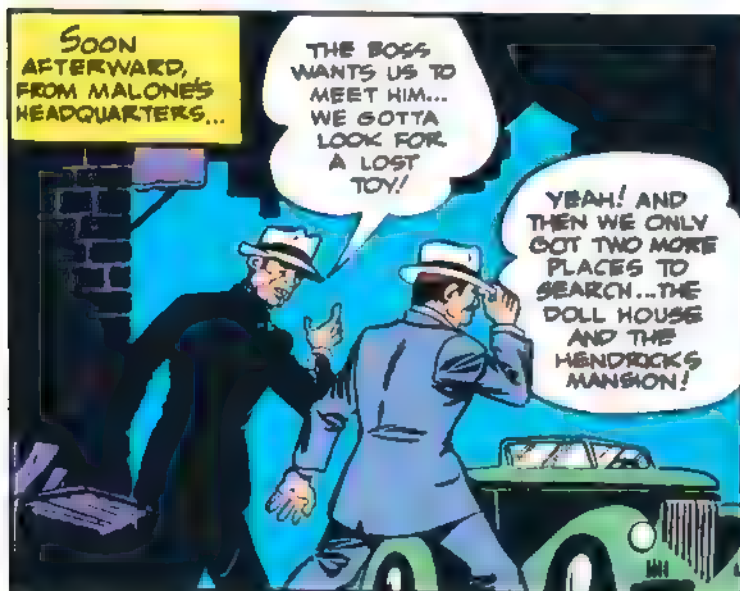
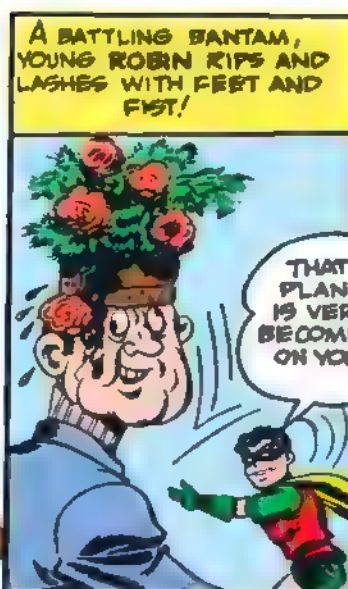
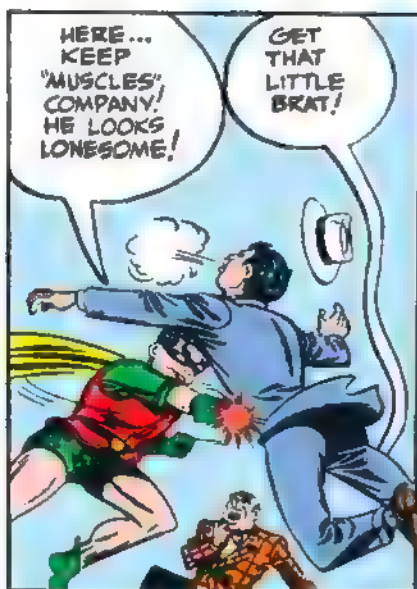
I DON'T KNOW! I'M THE BUTLER—THE FAMILY IS OUT. I...I BELIEVE THE TOY YOU MENTION WAS LEFT AT THE PLAYGROUND NEARBY!

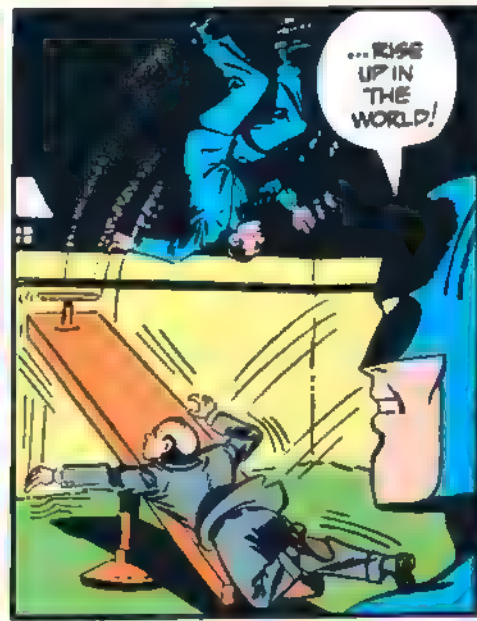
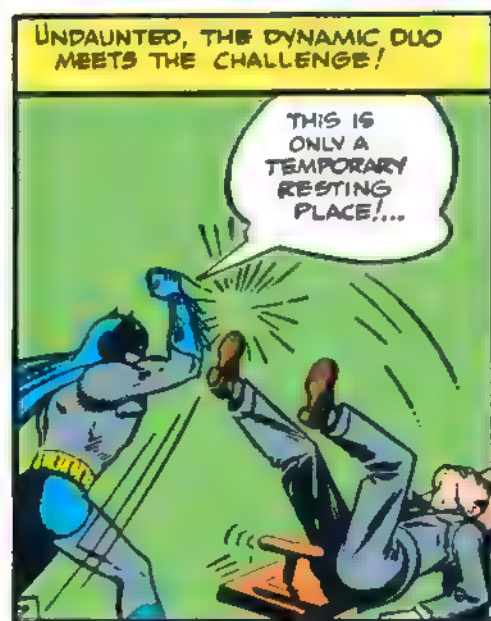
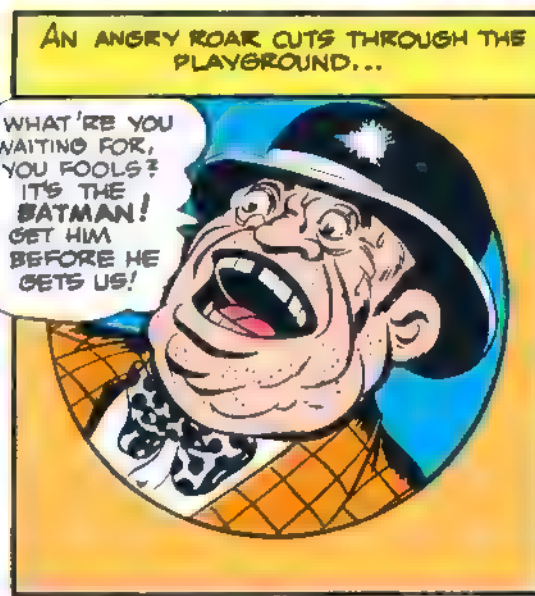
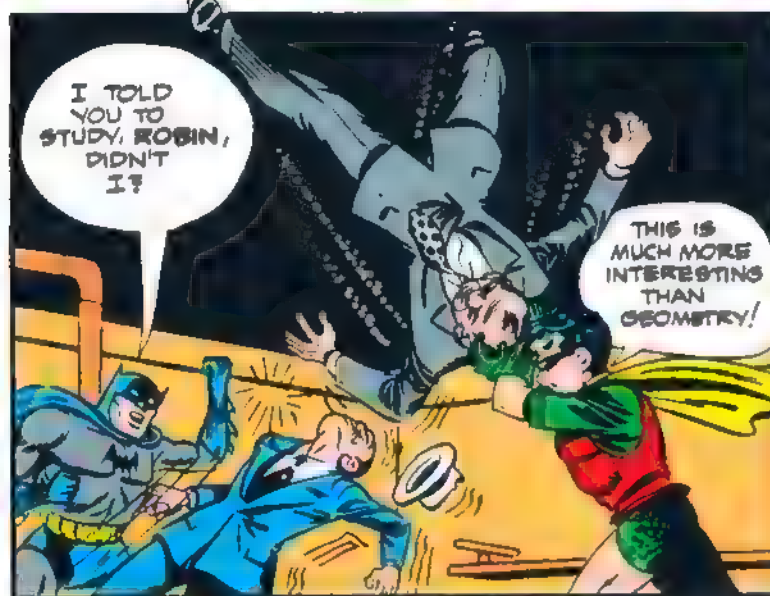
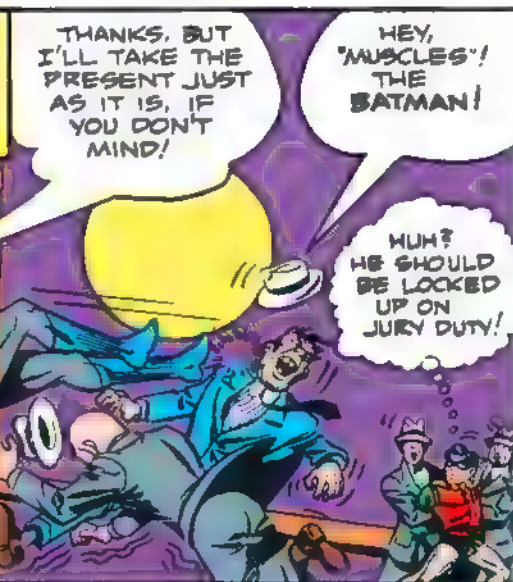
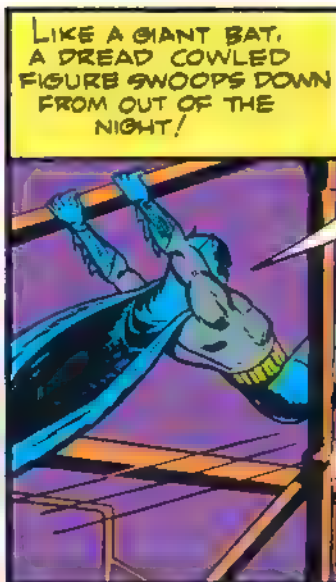
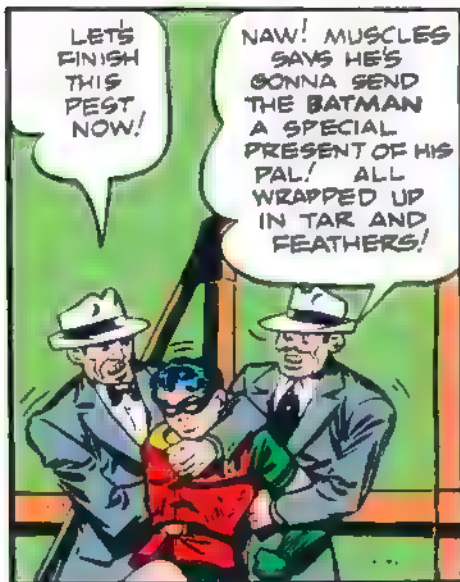
A SUDDEN NOISE AT THE WINDOW... AND INTO THE ROOM PLUNGES THE LAUGHING BOY WONDER...

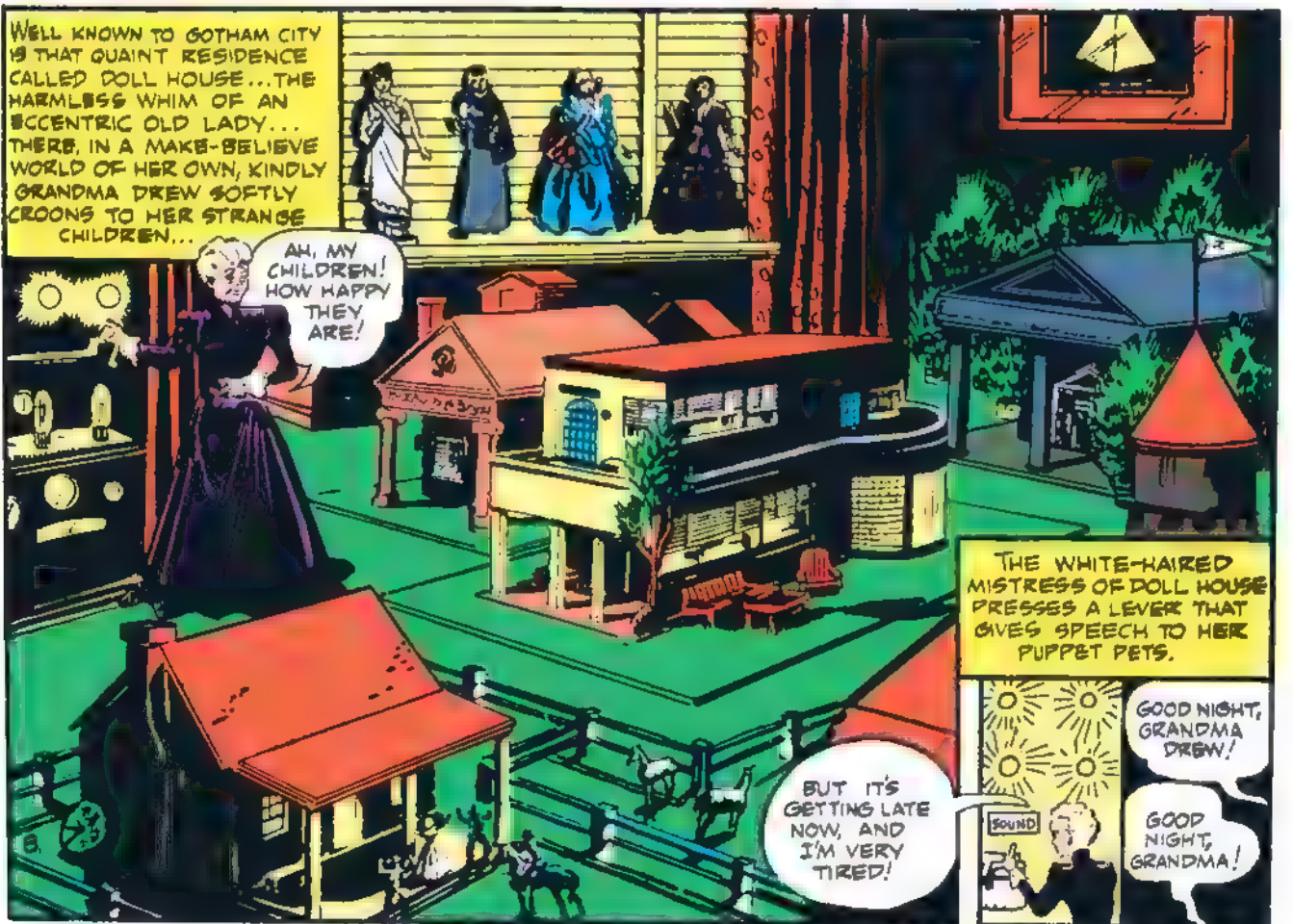
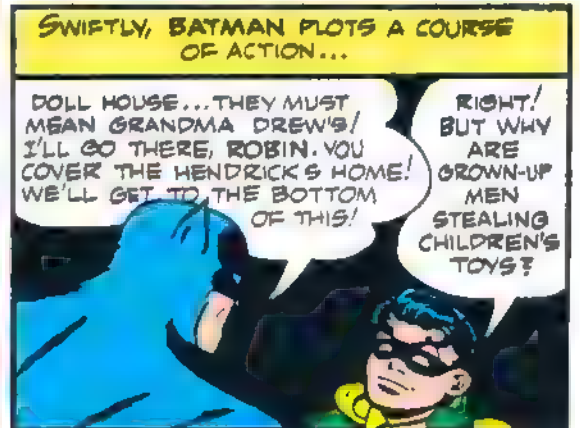
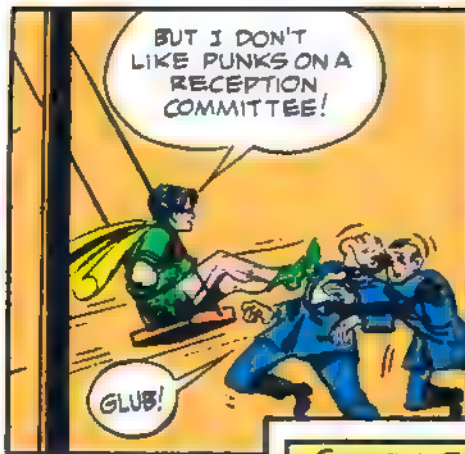
HEY, 'MUSCLES'! LOOK OUT!

OLD MEN AND KIDS... THAT'S WHO YOU MUGGS TACKLE! WELL...

...HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS LITTLE BOY?

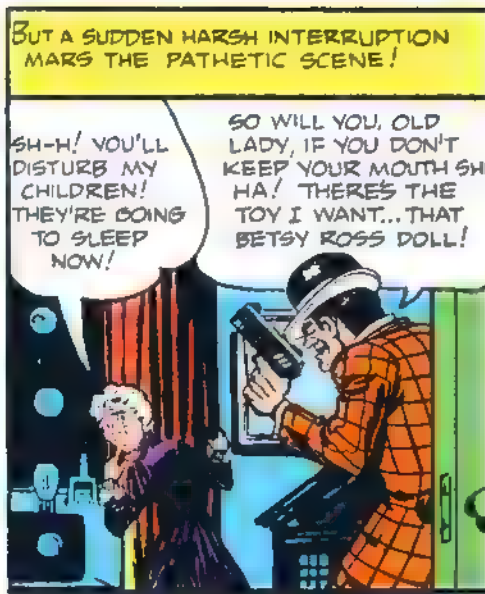








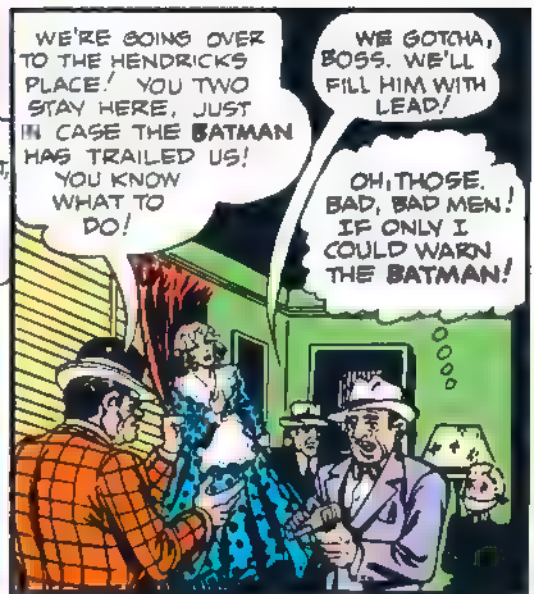
GOOD NIGHT,
MY LITTLE ONES.
AND NOW I'LL
TURN OUT THE
LIGHTS!



BUT A SUDDEN HARSH INTERRUPTION
MARS THE PATHETIC SCENE!

SH-H! YOU'LL
DISTURB MY
CHILDREN!
THEY'RE GOING
TO SLEEP
NOW!

SO WILL YOU, OLD
LADY, IF YOU DON'T
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT,
HA! THERES THE
TOY I WANT...THAT
BETSY ROSS DOLL!



WE'RE GOING OVER
TO THE HENDRICKS
PLACE! YOU TWO
STAY HERE, JUST
IN CASE THE BATMAN
HAS TRAILED US!
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO
DO!

WE GOTCHA,
BOSS. WE'LL
FILL HIM WITH
LEAD!

OH, THOSE
BAD, BAD MEN!
IF ONLY I
COULD WARN
THE BATMAN!



PRESENTLY, A SHADOWY
FIGURE GLIDES UNSUSPECTINGLY
TOWARD THE DOOR OF THE DOLL
ROOM!

THAT'S FUNNY...
EVERYTHING'S SO
QUIET! MAYBE
'MUSCLES' DIDN'T
COME HERE YET!



ABRUPTLY, A
GRIM COMMAND
BARKS OUT FROM
BEYOND THE
DOOR.

HANDS
UP!

SOME-
THING
IS WRONG
IN DOLL
HOUSE, ALL
RIGHT!



CAUTIOUSLY, HE
KICKS THE DOOR
OPEN... AND AN
AMAZING TABLEAU
GREET'S HIS STARTLED
GAZE!

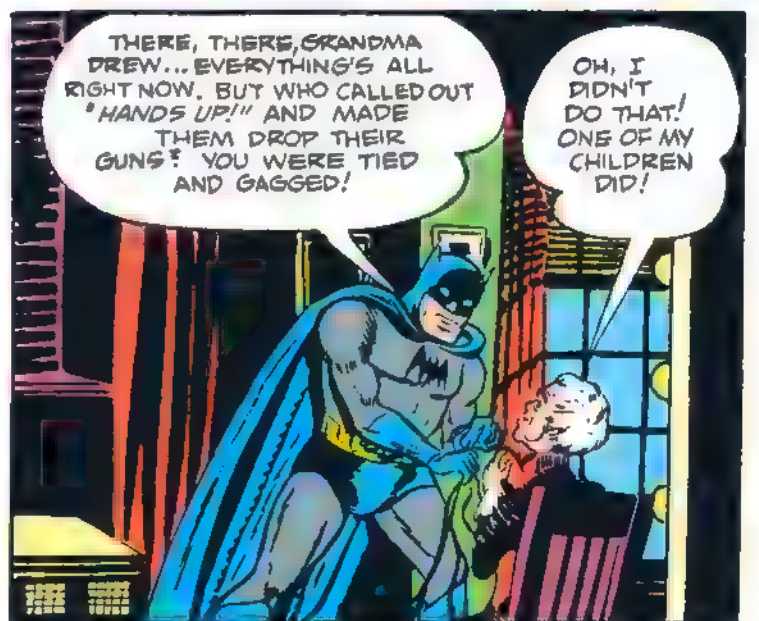
THERE'S
THE
BATMAN!
SAY—

SO YOU
WERE
WAITING
FOR ME,
EH?



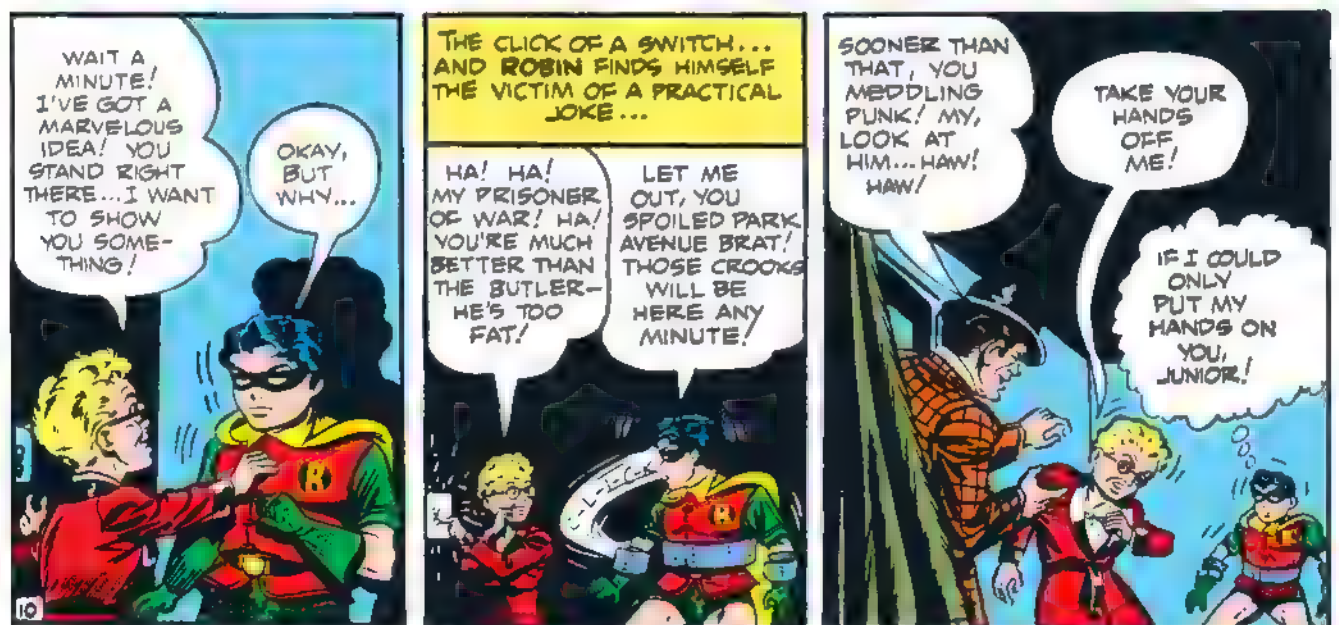
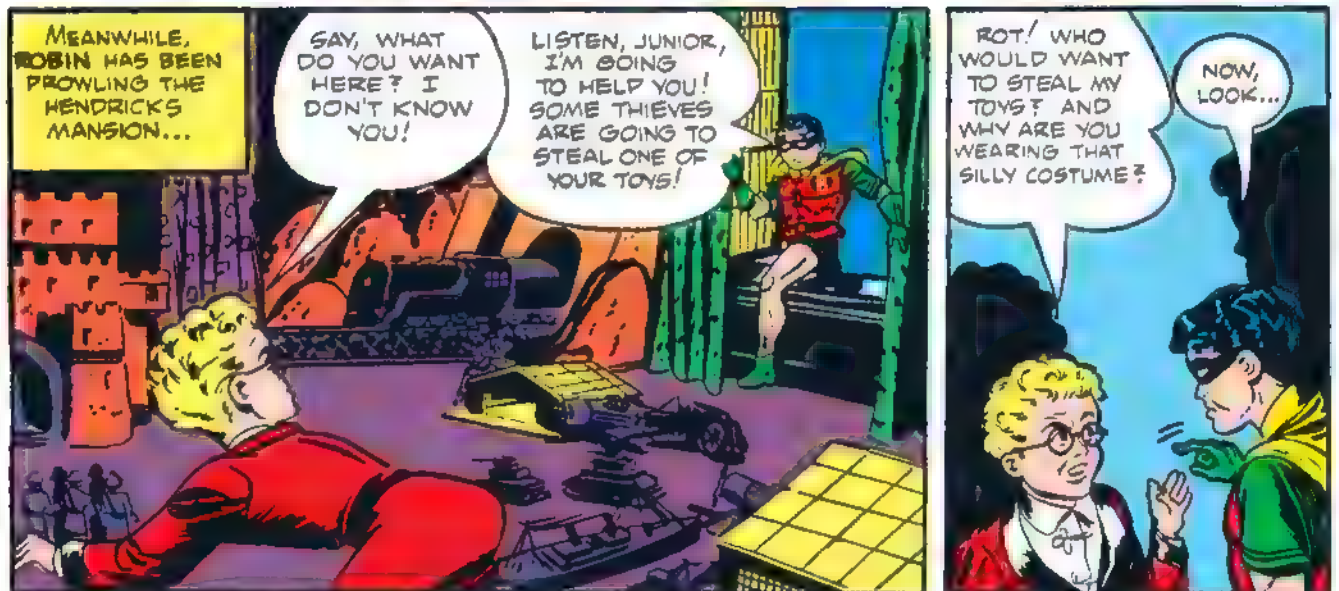
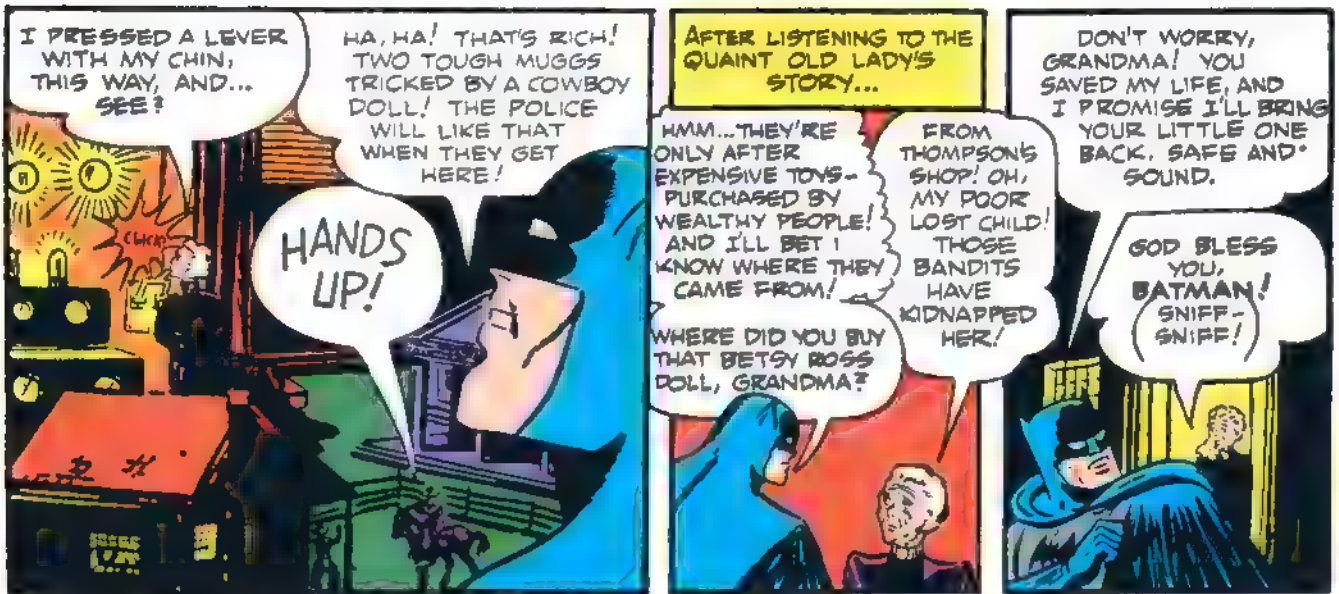
HEADS...
YOU
LOSE!

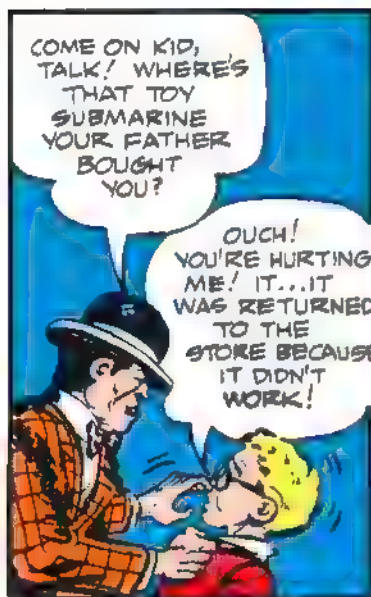
CRACK!



THERE, THERE, GRANDMA
DREW... EVERYTHING'S ALL
RIGHT NOW. BUT WHO CALLED OUT
'HANDS UP!' AND MADE
THEM DROP THEIR
GUNS? YOU WERE TIED
AND GAGGED!

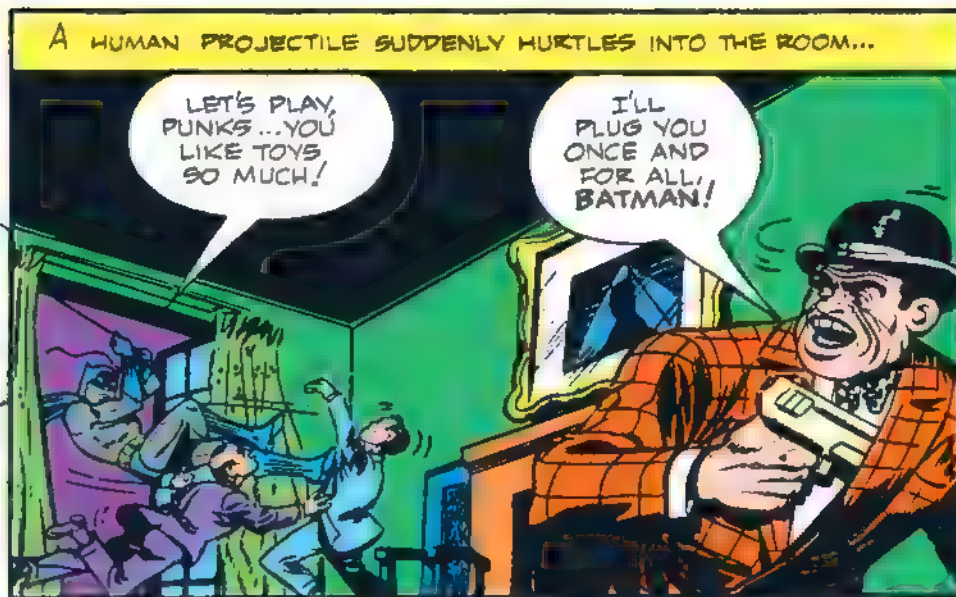
OH, I
DIDN'T
DO THAT!
ONE OF MY
CHILDREN
DID!





COME ON KID, TALK! WHERE'S THAT TOY SUBMARINE YOUR FATHER BOUGHT YOU?

OUCH! YOU'RE HURTING ME! IT...IT WAS RETURNED TO THE STORE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T WORK!



LET'S PLAY, PUNKS...YOU LIKE TOYS SO MUCH!

I'LL PLUG YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL, BATMAN!

AND JUST THEN, BY AN UNLUCKY TWIST OF FATE, THE VALIANT CRIME-FIGHTER SKIDS OVER A TOY...



ONE BULLET... AND YOU'RE THROUGH!

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, QUICK!

...AND STARES INTO THE YAWNING MOUTH OF DEATH!

SHREWD, ROVING EYES SWIFTLY FOCUS ON AN OBJECT OVERHEAD... THEN, A LIGHTNING PULL AT A CORD AND...



HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

JUNIOR'S PARACHUTE TROOPS, 'MUSCLES!' A LITTLE INVASION!

ALERTLY, ROBIN ADDS SOUND EFFECTS TO THE MINIATURE BATTLE!



HA! HA!

BLANK CARTRIDGES - I THOUGHT SO!

LET ME OUT OF HERE...IT'S A BLITZ!

BOOM!

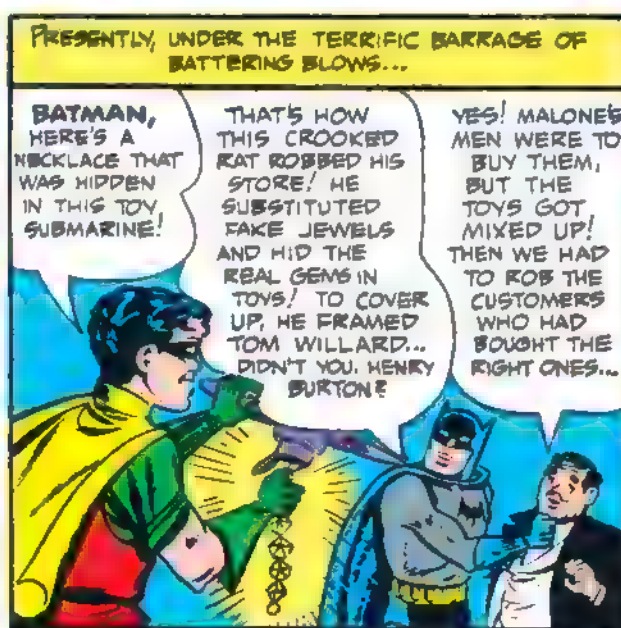
THE ENEMY HAS RETREATED! ROBIN IS FREED!

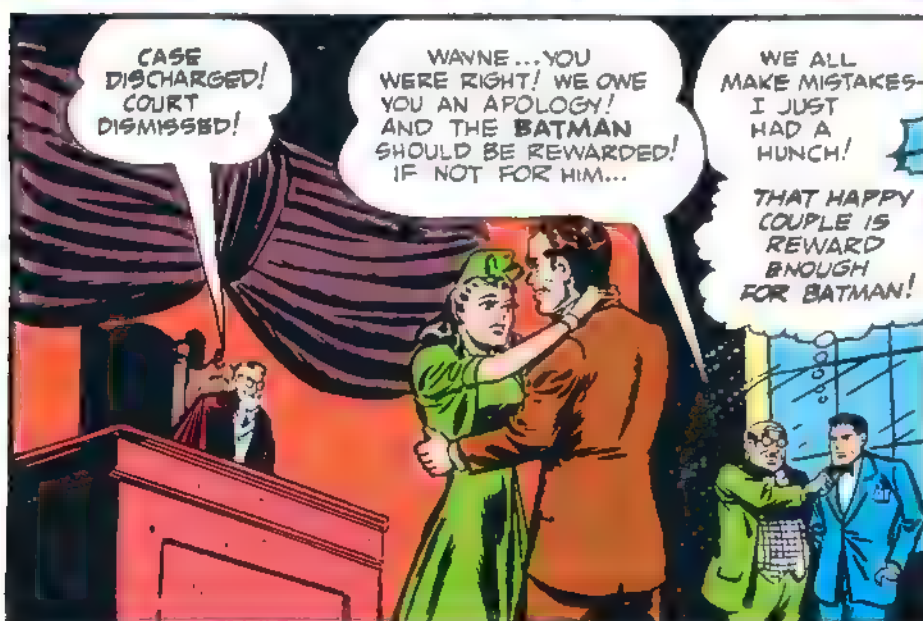
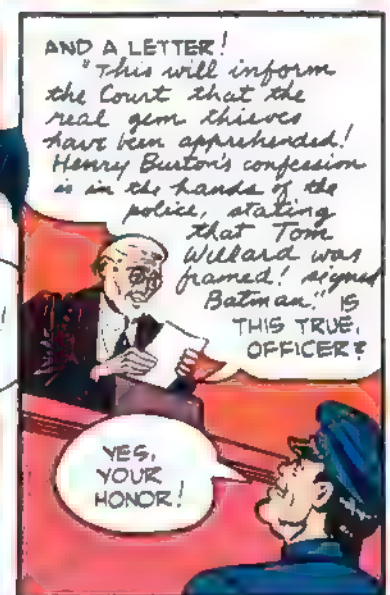
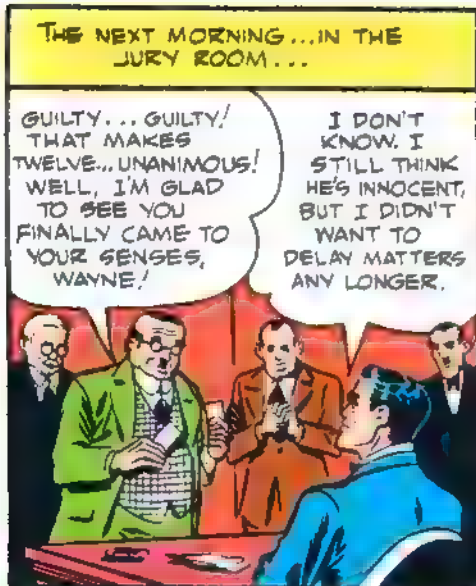
NOW I KNOW HOW THE GEMS GOT OUT OF THE THOMPSON STORE! AND THE BIG BOSS MUST BE SOMEONE WHO HAS A LIST OF ALL CUSTOMERS!

THEY'RE GOING THERE NOW FOR JUNIOR'S TOY. THAT REMINDS ME... WAIT A SECOND!

HELP! SOMEBODY RELEASE ME! HELP!

OKAY, BATMAN, LET'S GO! JUNIOR DOESN'T LIKE SOME OF HIS OWN MEDICINE...

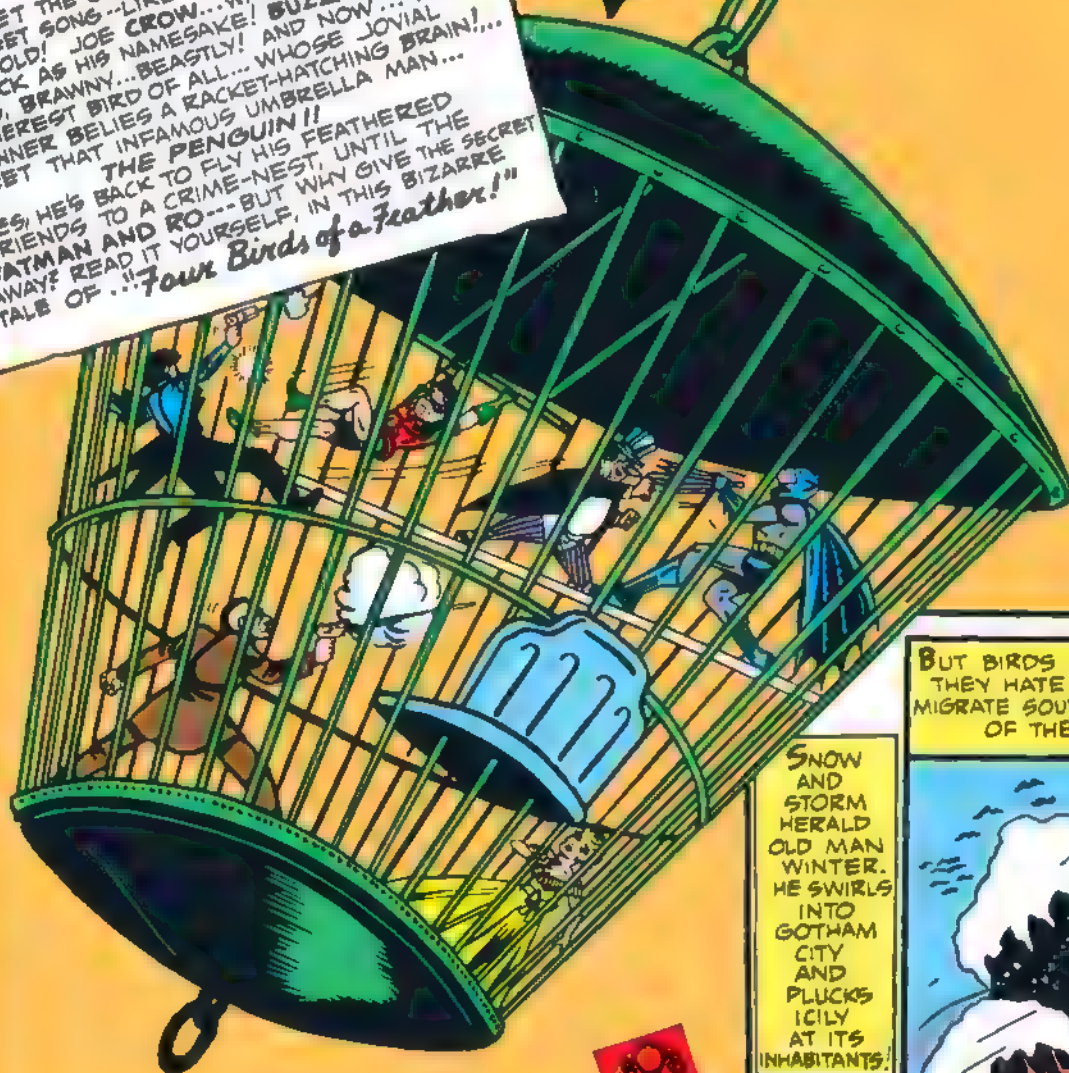




BATMAN

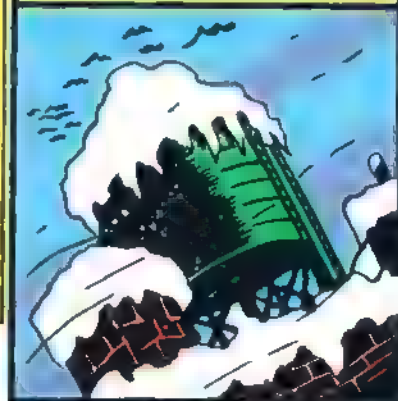
WITH
ROBIN

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CRIME
MEET THE CANARY! SHE WARBLER A
SWEET SONG--LIKE THE SCHEMING SIRENS
OF OLD! JOE CROW--WHOSE HEART IS AS
BLACK AS HIS NAMESAKE! BUZZARD BENNY--
BIG, BRAUNY...BEASTLY! AND NOW...THE
QUERREST BIRD OF ALL...WHOSE JOVIAL
MANNER BELIES A RACKET-HATCHING BRAIN!...
MEET THAT INFAMOUS UMBRELLA MAN...
THE PENGUIN!!
YES, HE'S BACK TO FLY HIS FEATHERED
FRIENDS TO A CRIME-NEST, UNTIL THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN--BUT WHY GIVE THE SECRET
AWAY? READ IT YOURSELF, IN THIS BIZARRE
TALE OF...*Four Birds of a Feather!*



BUT BIRDS DO NOT STAY...
THEY HATE THE COLD AND
MIGRATE SOUTHWARD IN QUEST
OF THE SUN...

SNOW
AND
STORM
HERALD
OLD MAN
WINTER.
HE SWIRLS
INTO
GOTHAM
CITY
AND
PLUCKS
ICILY
AT ITS
INHABITANTS!



OTHER "BIRDS," TOO, THINK OF THE WARM SOUTHLAND... BIRDS OF PREY... HUMAN VULTURES!

BUZZARD, THE NIGHT-CLUB BUSINESS IS DEAD!

YEAH, CROW! THE CANARY, HERE, AIN'T EVEN GOT ONE CUSTOMER TO SING TO!

LET'S SHAKE THIS TOWN AND GO SOUTH... FLORIDA! THE TOURIST TRADE DOWN THERE IS FULL OF CHUMPS!



NOW WE MEET ANOTHER "BIRD," WHOSE WADDLING GAIT AND CHERUBIC FACE MASKS EVIL PURPOSE... THE PENGUIN!

REAL PENGUINS RELISH THE COLD, BUT NOT I! JOVE... A CAR! HO, THERE! HALT!



SHADES OF SHELLEY, BUT THIS IS DELIGHTFUL! MY OLD COMPATRIOTS THE EVER-LOVELY CANARY, JOE CROW AND BUZZARD BENNY!

THE PENGUIN! HOP IN! WE'RE DRIVIN' DOWN SOUTH!



WE HEARD THE BATMAN WAS ON YOUR TAIL!

THE BATMAN! HE'LL FIND IT HARD TO PUT SALT ON MY TAIL... HA, HA!



WE WANT TO OPEN A NIGHT CLUB IN FLORIDA, WITH GAMBLING AS THE REAL RACKET! ONLY WE NEED MORE DOUGH TO GET STARTED!

THEN BEHOLD YOUR NEW PARTNER! THE PROCEEDS OF MY LAST ESCAPE... THE HOBOES' "JUNGLE" AFFAIR!



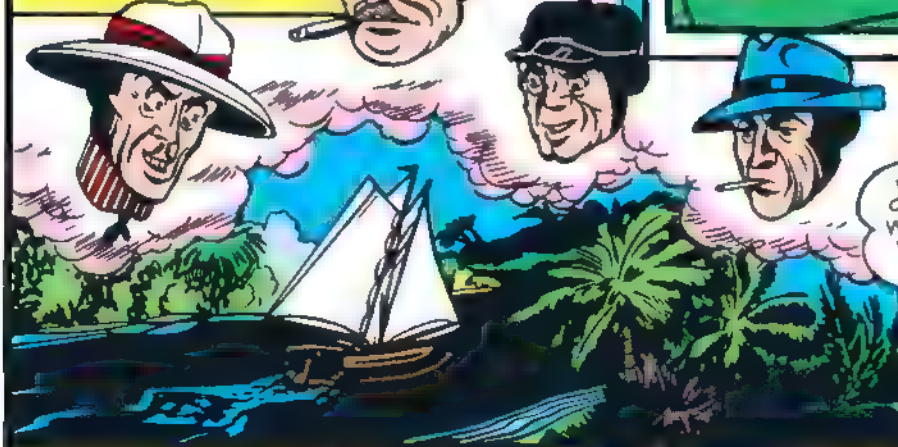
THE PENGUIN'S TWISTED BUT FERTILE BRAIN CONCOCTS A CLEVER PLAN!



A FIRST-CLASS RACKET!

WE'LL BE ON EASY STREET... FOUR BIRDS OF A FEATHER! A CANARY, A CROW, A BUZZARD AND ARUMPH... A PENGUIN!

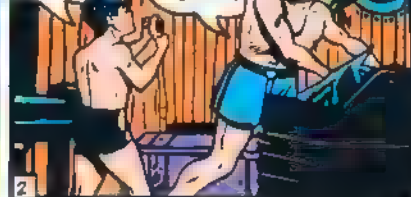
FLORIDA! TO THIS WINTER VACATIONLAND FLOCK PEOPLE OF THE NORTH, BUT TO IT ALSO SWARM HUMAN VULTURES...



BEYOND MIAMI'S SHORE RIDES A SMALL YACHT! IT'S TWO-MAN CREW, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON!

WHY THE COSTUME? WE'RE ON A VACATION!

RATS GO EVERYWHERE, SO WE'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED... JUST IN CASE!



THE RACE-TRACK TOUT, THE GAMBLER, THE GUNMAN, THE RACKETEER!

SUDDENLY...A CRY FOR HELP!

LOOK! THAT GIRL SWAM TOO FAR OUT AND SHE'S IN DANGER!

H-E-L-P

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THOSE TENTACLES!

A SCANT INSTANT FOR A SWITCH OF GARB-AND NOW IT IS THE BATMAN WHO WHIPS OVER-SIDE...

WOW! THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE A PICNIC!

DOWN THROUGH SHIMMERING WATER HE SWIMS...BLADE POISED FOR UNDERSEA BATTLE WITH THAT DEMON OF THE DEEP... A GIANT SQUID!

A SINGLE SLASH FREES THE MONSTER'S CAPTIVE!

BUT ONE OF THE NIGHT-MARE CREATURES ARMS SNAKES LIGHTLY ABOUT THE BATMAN!

OH-OH! THIS BABY LIKES ME SO MUCH HE WANTS TO HUG ME TO DEATH!

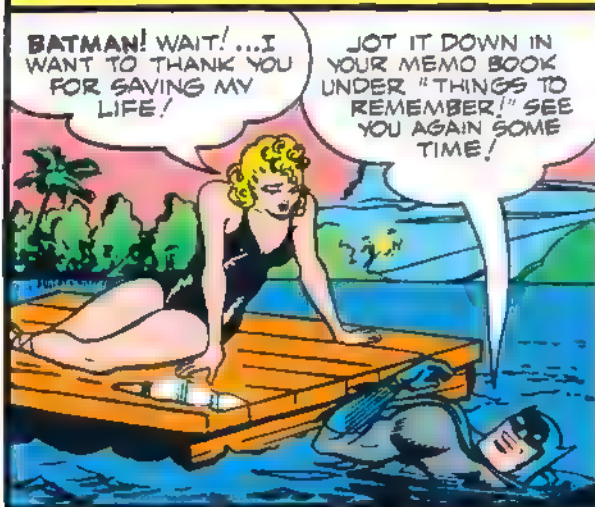
VICIOUSLY, THE CRUEL, PARROT-LIKE BEAK OF THE WATER BEAST SNAPS AT THE CLOAKED FIGHTER!

NEED AIR... AND THIS FELLA...ISN'T FOOLING! BETTER MAKE IT FAST...

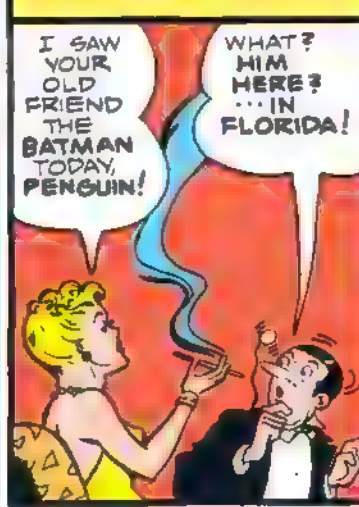
THE BLADE BITES DEEP INTO A BALEFUL EYE... AND INSTINCTIVELY THE SQUID SQUIRTS FORTH A STREAM OF INKY FLUID!

THANKS, BUD. THAT MAKES IT ALL THE EASIER FOR US BOTH TO GET AWAY!

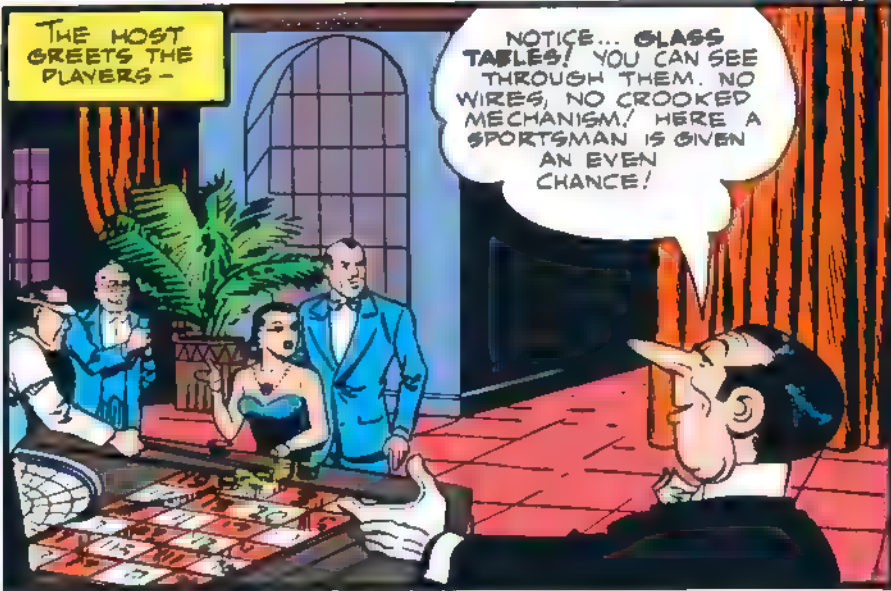
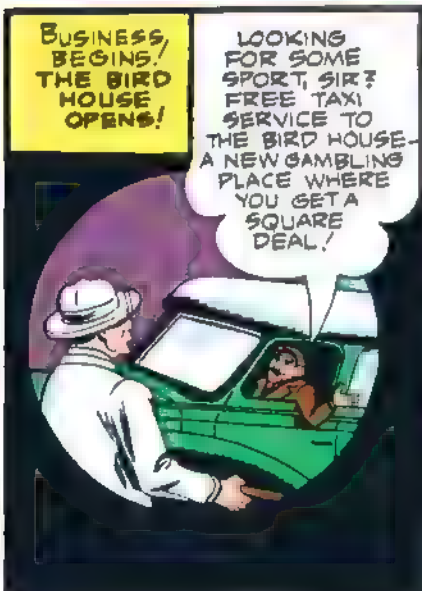
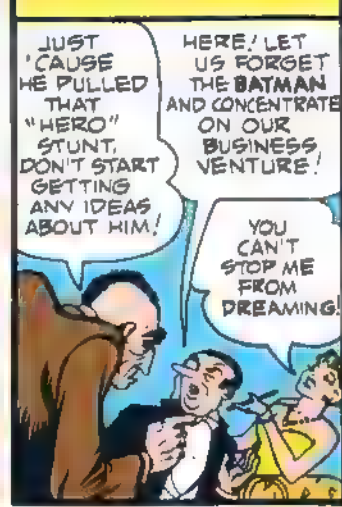
LATER, WHEN THE GRATEFUL GIRL REGAINS HER STRENGTH ON A NEARBY FLOAT...



THE CANARY LOOSES A BOMBHELL IN HER CRONIES' MIDST...



SHE TELLS OF HER TIMELY RESCUE BY THE BATMAN.



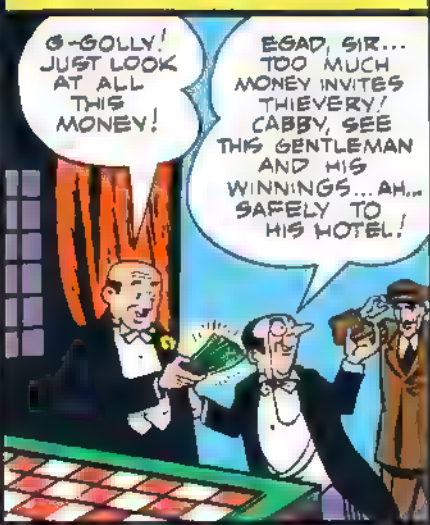
SOON THE AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE THE NEW PHENOMENON...AN HONEST GAMBLING HOUSE!

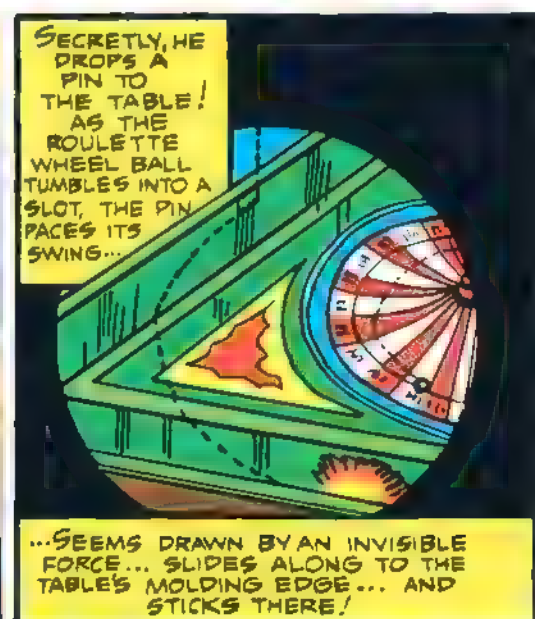
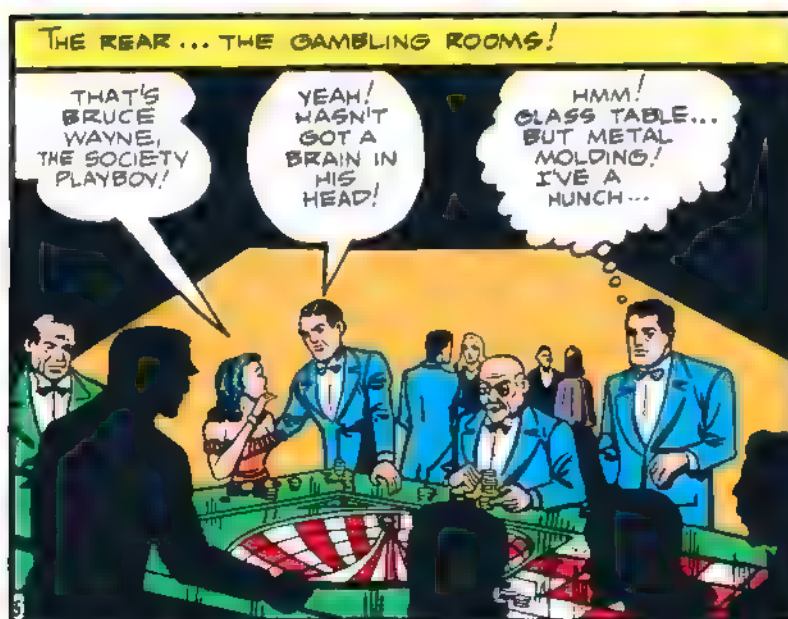
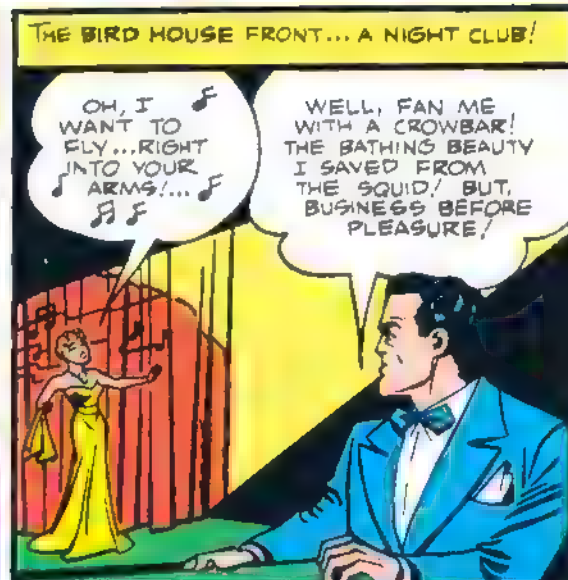
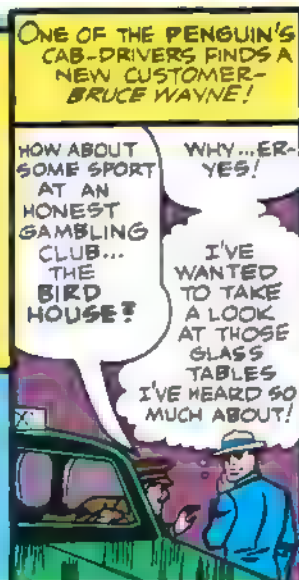
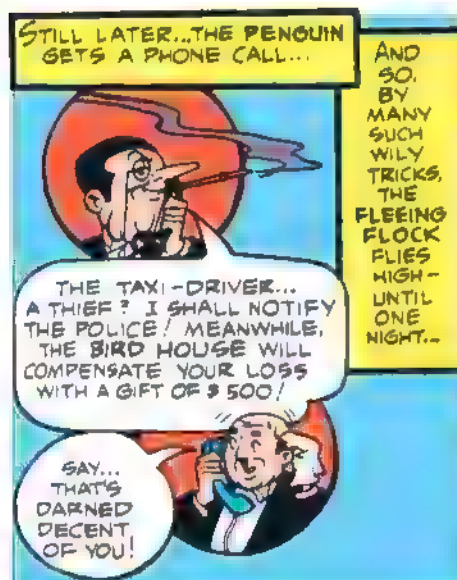


BUT WHEN THE POLICE LEAVE, THE TRUE TALE OF TREACHERY IS REVEALED...



SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AN UNBELIEVING VICTIM FINDS HIMSELF A BIG WINNER AT ROULETTE...





VERY CLEVER!
ELECTRO-MAGNETS IN THE
MOLDING! THE STEEL
BALL IS DRAWN INTO
THE ROULETTE SLOT,
DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH
THE MAGNET THAT THE
CROUPIER SENDS
CURRENT THROUGH!

GOT A NEW
CLUCK
PICKED OUT
TONIGHT!
BRUCE WAYNE,
A PLAYBOY.
YOU KNOW
THE KIND...
PLENTY OF
MONEY BUT
SHORT ON
BRAINS!

SOUNDS
FASCINATING.
THINK I'LL
TODDLE ALONG,
TOO, AND
WATCH YOU...
AH... TAKE
HIM!

AFTER A WONDERING BRUCE NOTES THAT
THE CROUPIER PERMITS HIM TO WIN
A LARGE SUM...

MR. WAYNE,
THE HOUSE WOULD
LIKE YOUR
ADDRESS... FOR
THE RECORD OF
YOUR WINNINGS,
OF COURSE!

WELL, WELL!
BUZZARD BENNY
AND JOE CROW-
THESE BIRDS
BODE NO GOOD!
I'LL GIVE THEM
THE ADDRESS OF
MY TEMPORARY
ROOM IN
TOWN!

BRUCE MAKES A HASTY CALL
TO DICK GRAYSON...

...AND THEY
PROBABLY
WANT TO
LIFT MY
WINNINGS!

THEY
WANTED
YOUR ADDRESS
SO THEY
CAN BEAT
YOU HOME
AND WAIT
FOR YOU!
NICE
PEOPLE!

LATER...
FROM THE
BROODING
SHADOWS
OF BRUCE'S
PENTHOUSE...

Y...
YES,
SIR!

REACH
FOR A
CLOUD,
CHUM!

THEN, FLASHING
FROM
CONCEALMENT,
COMES A
CATAPULTING,
COLORFUL
FIGURE...
ROBIN!

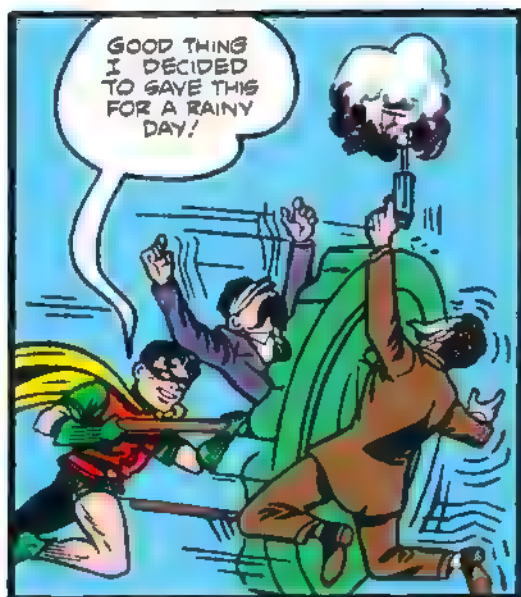
I'M GOING
INSIDE
TO PHONE
THE
POLICE!

SURPRISED?

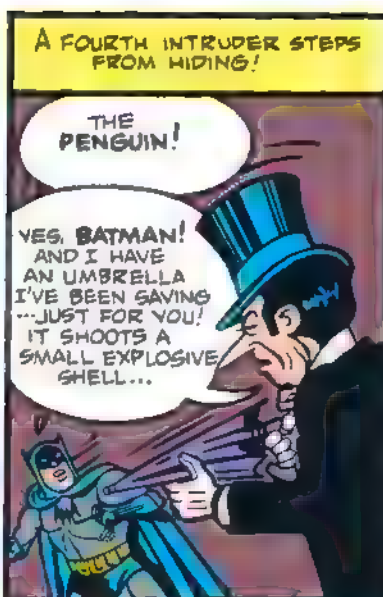
A SPLIT-SECOND DISCARD OF
OUTER CLOTHING... AND THE
BATMAN CRASHES THE FRAY!

GOT TO KEEP MY
IDENTITY A SECRET,
SO...

DON'T PHONE THE
POLICE, MR. WAYNE!
ROBIN AND I SPOTTED
THESE RATS PROWLING
ABOUT AND WE CLAIM THE
PRIVILEGE OF THE FIGHT!



GOOD THING I DECIDED TO GIVE THIS FOR A RAINY DAY!



A FOURTH INTRUDER STEPS FROM HIDING!

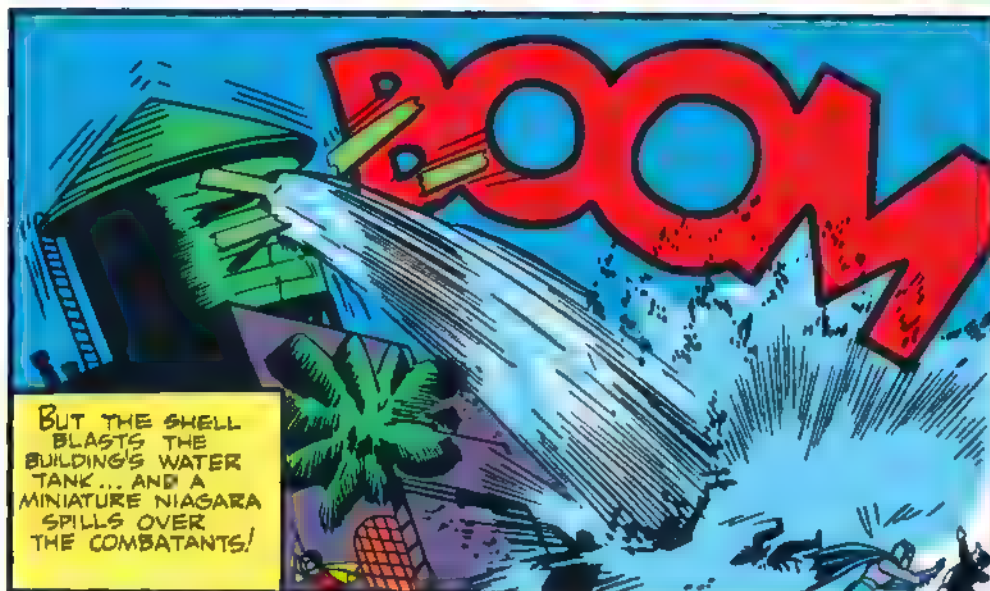
THE PENGUIN!

YES, BATMAN! AND I HAVE AN UMBRELLA I'VE BEEN SAVING...JUST FOR YOU! IT SHOOTS A SMALL EXPLOSIVE SHELL...

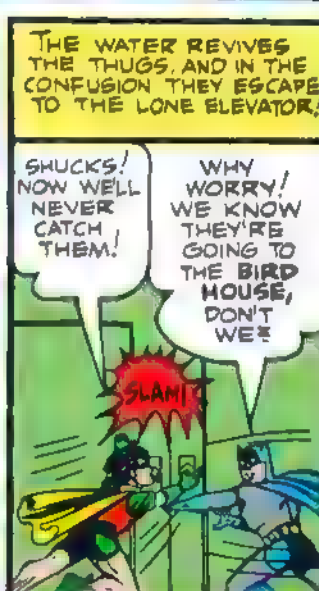


...THAT WILL BLAST YOU TO...OOF!

SORRY, PENGIN, BUT THIS TIME I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU THE "BIRD!"



BUT THE SHELL BLASTS THE BUILDING'S WATER TANK... AND A MINIATURE NIAGARA SPILLS OVER THE COMBATANTS!



THE WATER REVIVES THE THUGS, AND IN THE CONFUSION THEY ESCAPE TO THE LONE ELEVATOR!

SHUCKS! NOW WE'LL NEVER CATCH THEM!

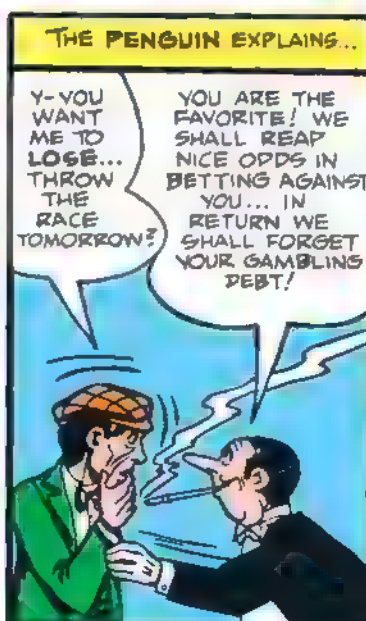
WHY WORRY! WE KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO THE BIRD HOUSE, DON'T WE?



LATER... BACK AT THE BIRD HOUSE...

WE'RE LUCKY THE BATMAN ONLY STUMBLED ACROSS US AND DOESN'T KNOW THIS PLACE AND OUR RACKET... BUT STILL... I'M WORRIED!

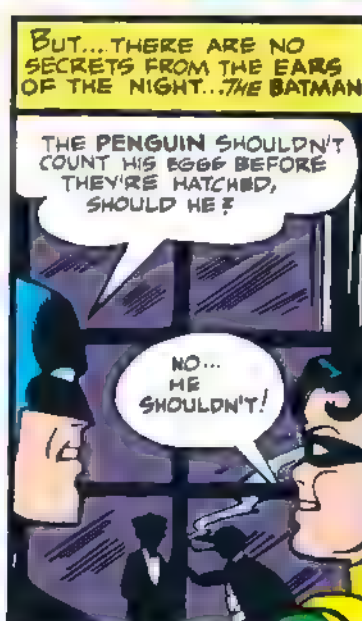
AND I! WE MUST MAKE THE MOST OF OUR TIME... AND ENOUGH MONEY, IN CASE WE HAVE TO MAKE A SUDDEN DEPARTURE! SEND IN THAT BOAT-RACING DRIVER!



THE PENGUIN EXPLAINS...

Y-YOU WANT ME TO LOSE... THROW THE RACE TOMORROW?

YOU ARE THE FAVORITE! WE SHALL REAP NICE ODDS IN BETTING AGAINST YOU... IN RETURN WE SHALL FORGET YOUR GAMBLING DEBT!



BUT... THERE ARE NO SECRETS FROM THE EARS OF THE NIGHT... THE BATMAN

THE PENGUIN SHOULDN'T COUNT HIS EGGS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED, SHOULD HE?

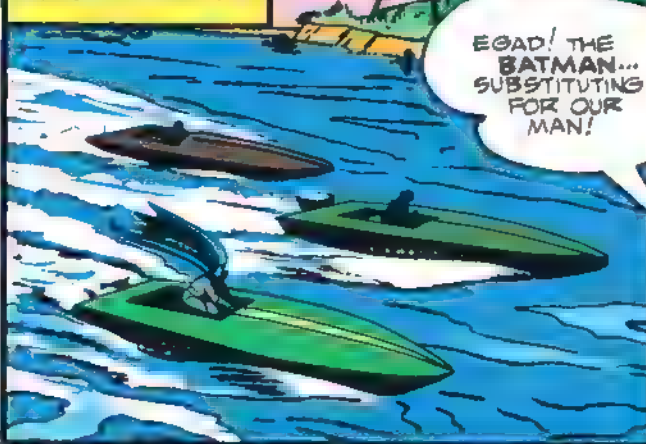
NO... HE SHOULDN'T!

THE DAY OF THE OUTBOARD STEEPCHASE RACE THAT A CERTAIN DRIVER IS DESTINED NEVER TO SEE!



OH-H-H!

LATER...THE BOATS JOCKEY INTO THE STARTING LINE... AND THEN... THEY'RE OFF... AT SIXTY MILES PER HOUR!

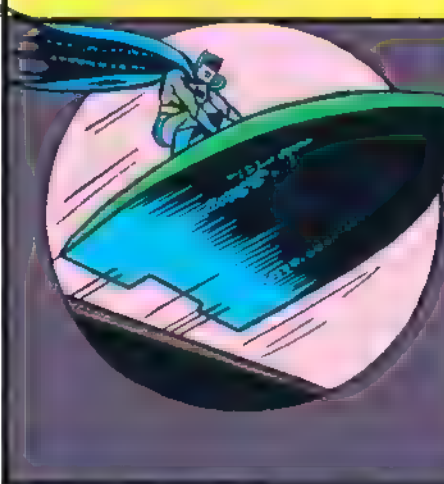


EGAD! THE BATMAN... SUBSTITUTING FOR OUR MAN!

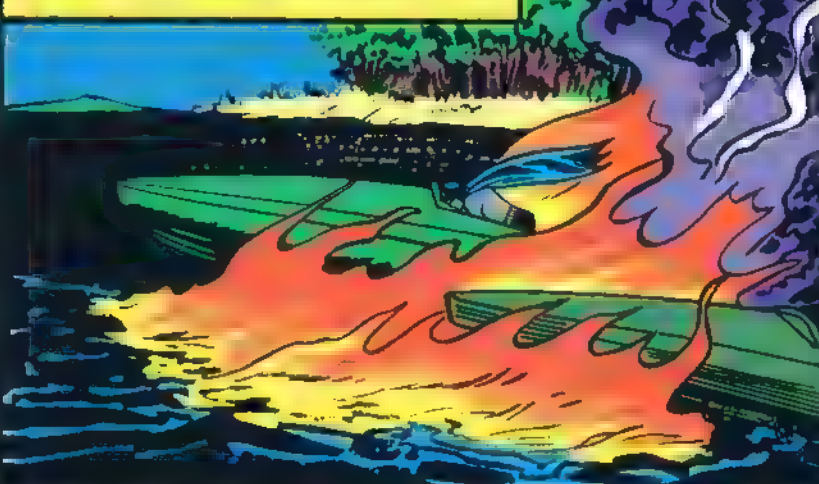
FROM A CAR ON SHORE, THE PENGUIN SPIES A FAMILIAR FIGURE!



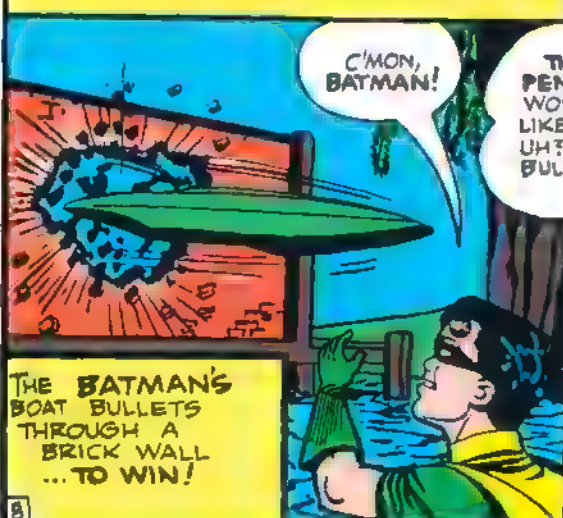
AND INDEED IT IS THE BATMAN WHOSE CRAFT LEAPS HIGH OVER THE SLANTING PLATFORM FOR THE LEADING JUMP!



HOLDING THE SCANT LEAD, THE OUTBOARD ROCKETS OVER CHOPPY WATERS... THROUGH THE NEXT HAZARD... A SHEET OF ROARING FLAME!



ON WHIP THE BOATS, AT A MILE-A-MINUTE CLIP... 'ROUND HAIR-PIN TURNS... OVER MORE JUMPS, THEN...THE FINAL HAZARD!



THE BATMAN'S BOAT BULLETS THROUGH A BRICK WALL... TO WIN!

AT THE FINISH LINE... A BULLET DRILLS PAST THE BATMAN AND SMASHES INTO THE WOOD!



C'MON, BATMAN!

THE PENGUIN WON'T LIKE TH... UH? A BULLET!

LOOK! IN THAT CAR...THE PENGUIN AND HIS CREW! LET'S GO AND GET 'EM!

YOU'LL GET HURT! THEY'RE OUT TO KILL... AND BESIDES... ER...THE BOAT CAN ONLY CARRY ONE PERSON!



CUT THE SENTIMENT! I CAN RIDE A SURFBOARD, CAN'T I? C'MON... WHILE WE'RE ARGUING, THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

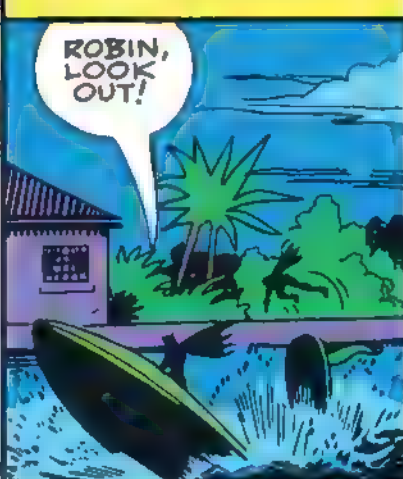
AN INSANE CHASE BEGINS!
RACING PARALLEL ALONG THE
FAMOUS VENETIAN ISLANDS ...
A POWER-CHARGED CAR ...
AND A ROARING OUTBOARD -
WITH A MADCAP LAD RIDING
A SWAYING SURFBOARD!!



YIPPEE!
RIDE
'EM,
COWBOY!

CRAZY
KID!

SUDDENLY! ANGRY BULLETS
CRACK THE STEERING WHEEL!
THE BOAT SWINGS IN A WILD
ARC...



ROBIN,
LOOK
OUT!

...TO THUD HEAVILY
ON THE EARTH!

GRAB THE BOY!
WE MUST ASSUME
NOW THAT THE
BATMAN KNOWS OF
OUR GAMBLING PLACE!
SO...I HAVE A PLAN...
HEE...HEE!



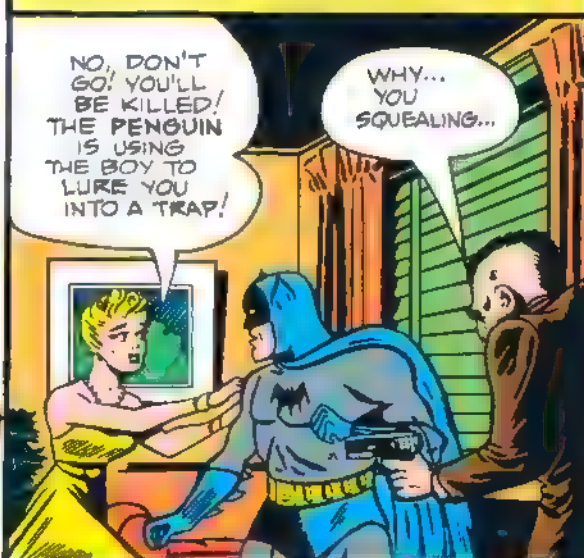
NOT LONG AFTER... EYES
LIKE CHIPS OF BLUE STEEL,
THE BATMAN STRIDES
PURPOSEFULLY INTO THE
BIRD HOUSE.



TALK!
WHERE HAS
THE PENGUIN
TAKEN THAT
BOY? TALK
OR...

I'LL
TALK!
THE KID
IS AT A
DESERTED
BARN AT...

BUT AS BUZZARD TELLS THE ADDRESS...



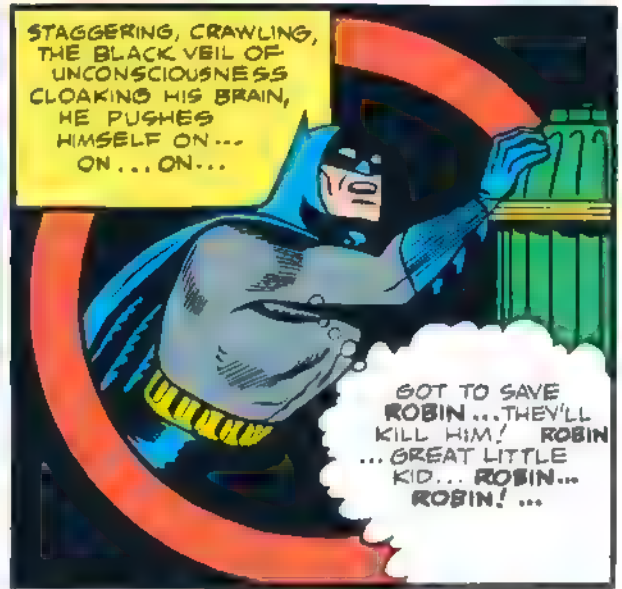
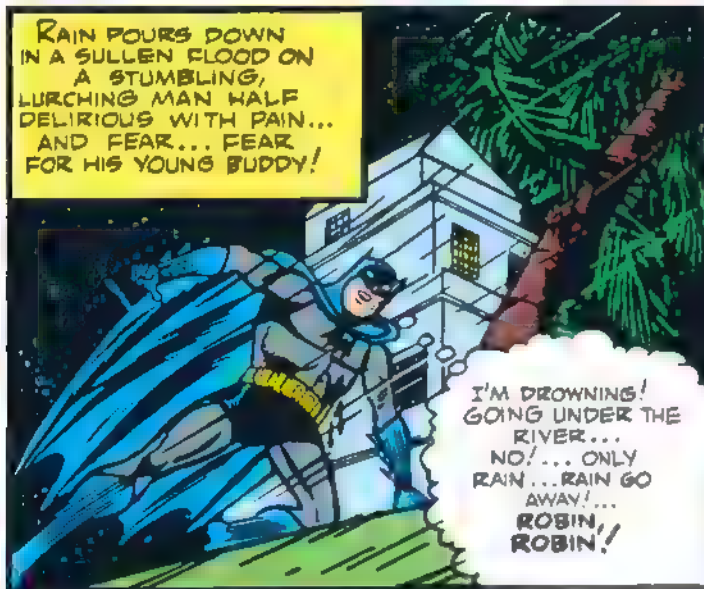
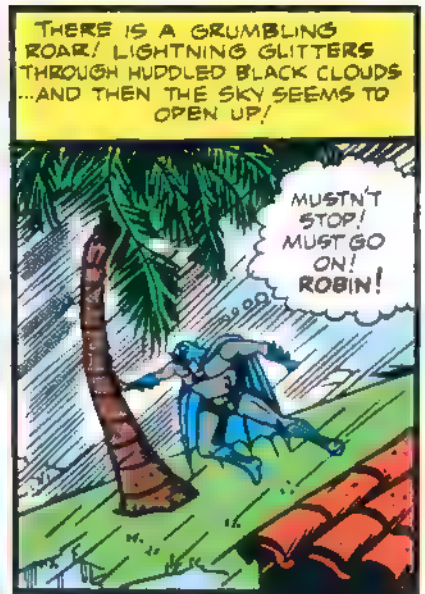
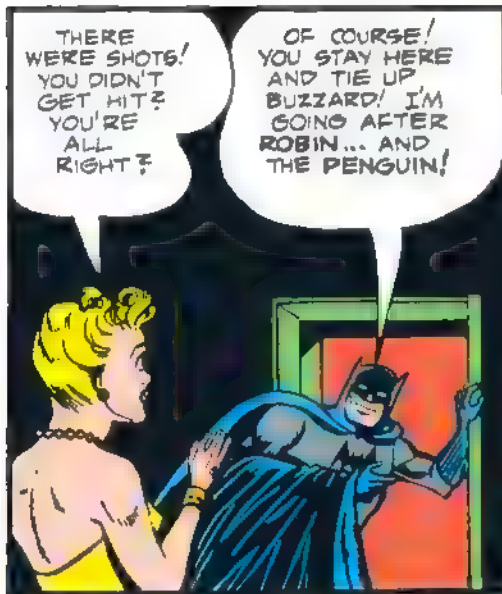
NO, DON'T
GO! YOU'LL
BE KILLED!
THE PENGUIN
IS USING
THE BOY TO
LURE YOU
INTO A TRAP!

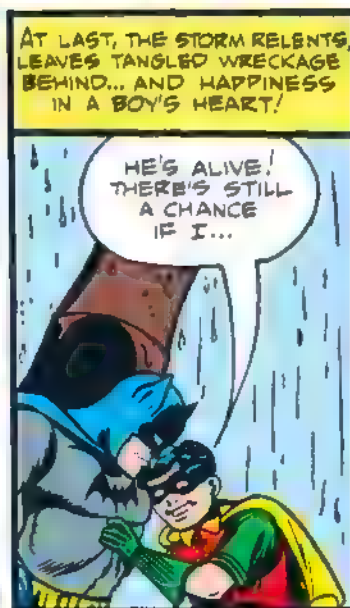
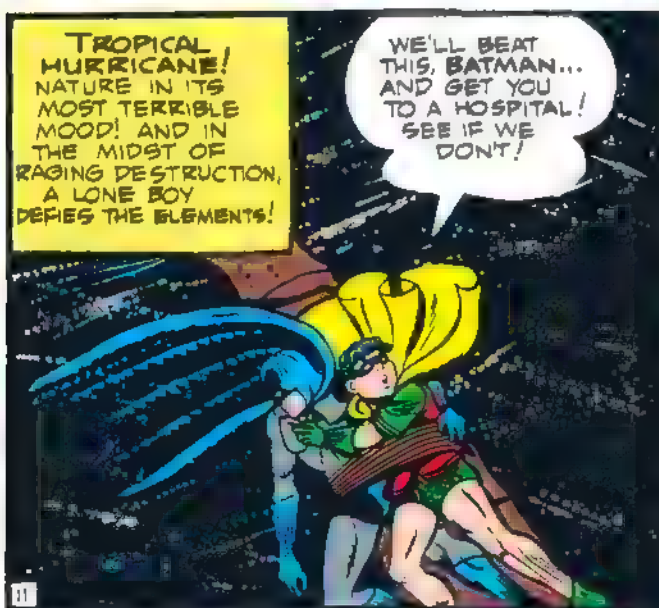
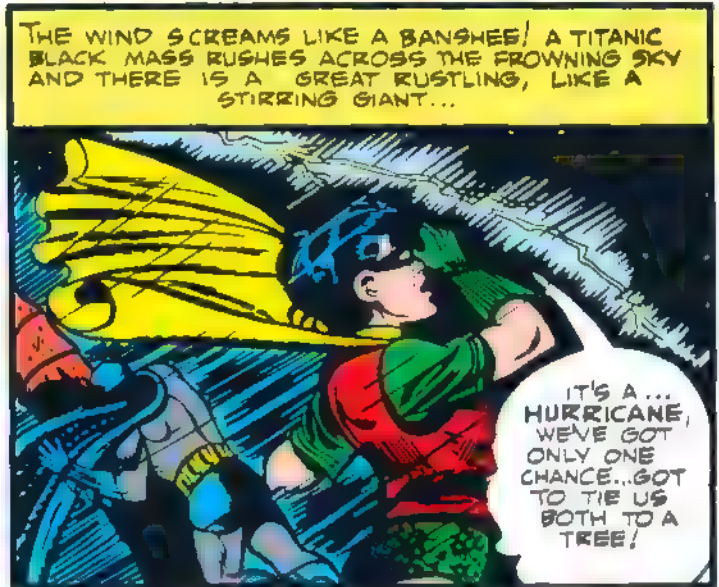
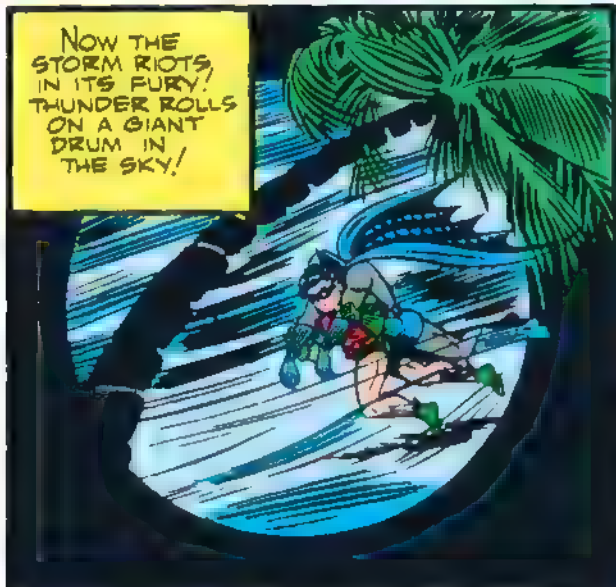
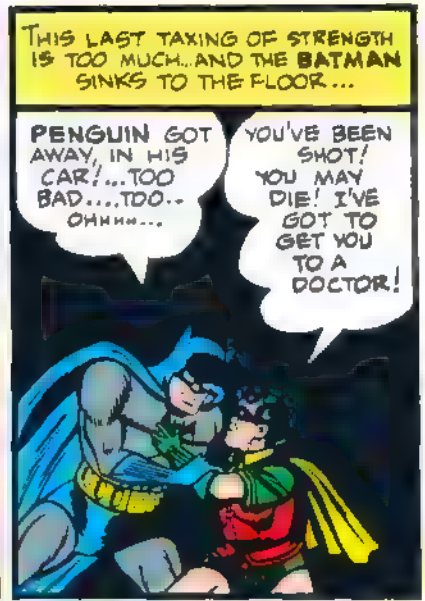
WHY...
YOU
SQUEALING...

INSTINCTIVELY...THE
BATMAN PUSHES THE
GIRL OUT OF HARM'S
WAY... AND...



PUT
THAT
GUN
AWAY,
OR...UGH!





BUT AT THE HOSPITAL...

BUT WE CAN'T WAIT TILL A DOCTOR IS FREE! THIS MAN MAY DIE!

EVERY DOCTOR HERE HAS MORE SERIOUS CASES THAN HE CAN HANDLE!

THE HURRICANE CAUSED MANY CASUALTIES! WE'RE SO RUSHED!

ROBIN, WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! ONCE I WAS A DOCTOR'S ASSISTANT! PERHAPS I CAN PULL HIM THROUGH! ARE YOU WILLING TO LET ME OPERATE ON YOUR FRIEND?

ANYTHING YOU DO TO SAVE BATMAN IS OKAY WITH ME! BUT SAVE HIM... PLEASE!

INSTRUMENTS ARE BORROWED, AND IN A ROOM AS WHITE AS DEATH, A NIGHT CLUB SINGER'S MANICURED FINGERS TOIL TO GIVE THE BATMAN BACK HIS LIFE!

SCALPEL, ROBIN!

AT LAST...FINISHED! THE NERVE-WRACKING TASK IS OVER.

WILL HE...?

YES! HE'LL LIVE, ROBIN... HE'LL LIVE!

SOME TIME LATER...THE BIRD HOUSE.

A NICE HAUL, BUT WE BETTER START MOVIN'!

EGAD! WE HAD BETTER BEFORE THE BATMAN MAKES ANOTHER APPEARANCE!

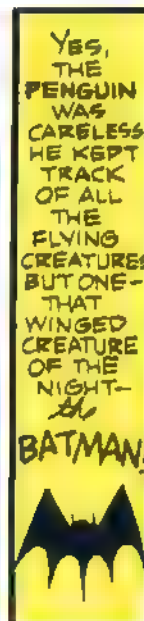
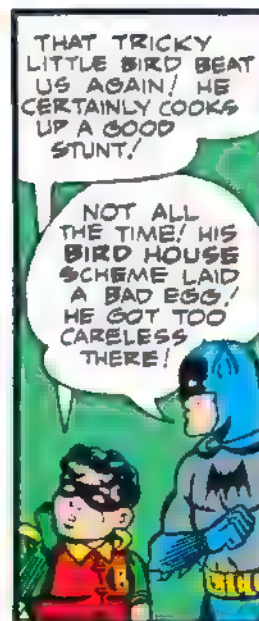
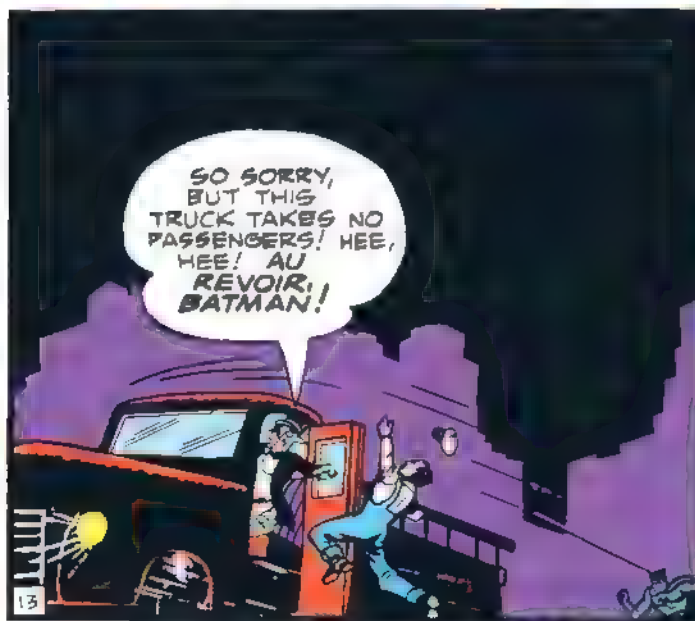
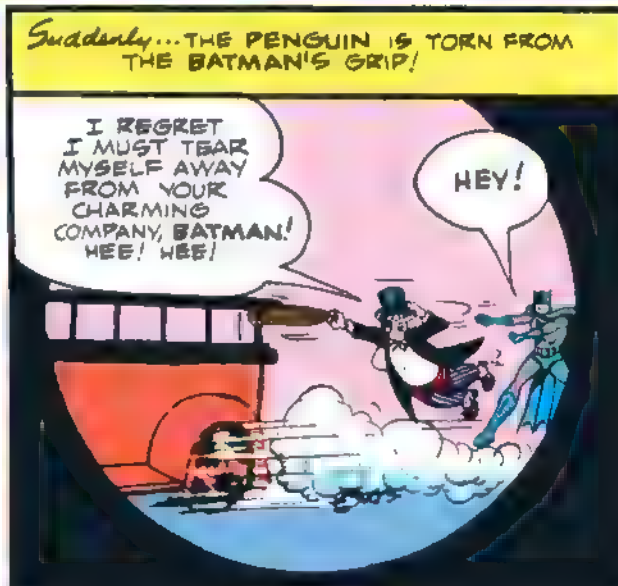
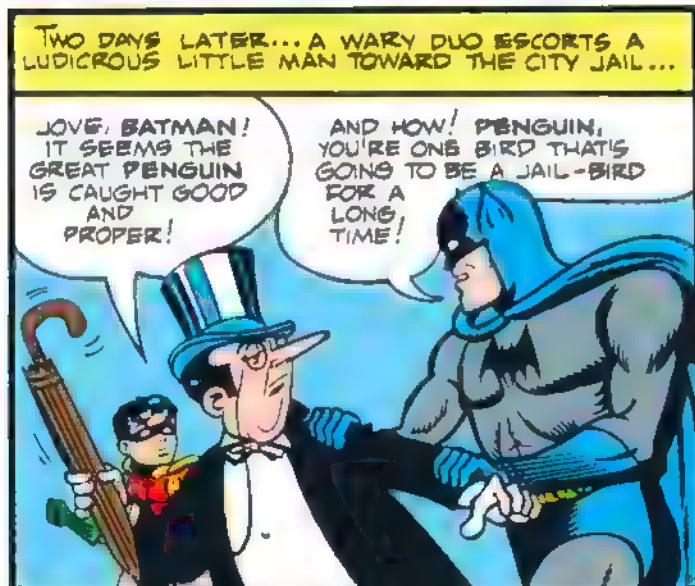
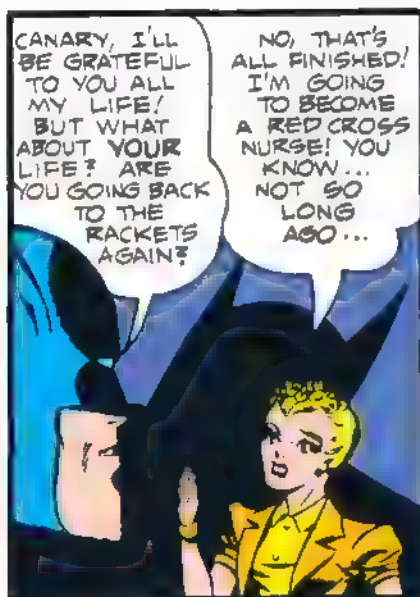
THE BATMAN COULDN'T COME... SO I CAME IN HIS PLACE...TO CLIP YOUR WINGS!

AND AS THE BATMAN WOULD SAY "THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS THAT!"

THE BATMAN'S PHYSICALLY PERFECT BODY RALLIES, AND THE NEXT MORNING HE AWAKENS, WEAK, BUT QUITE RECOVERED...TO FIND...

I JAILED THE OTHERS MYSELF, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TAKING IN THE PENGUIN!

ROBIN, YOU MAKE ME FEEL BETTER ALREADY! BUT THE PENGUIN LOOKS A LITTLE SICK... EH?



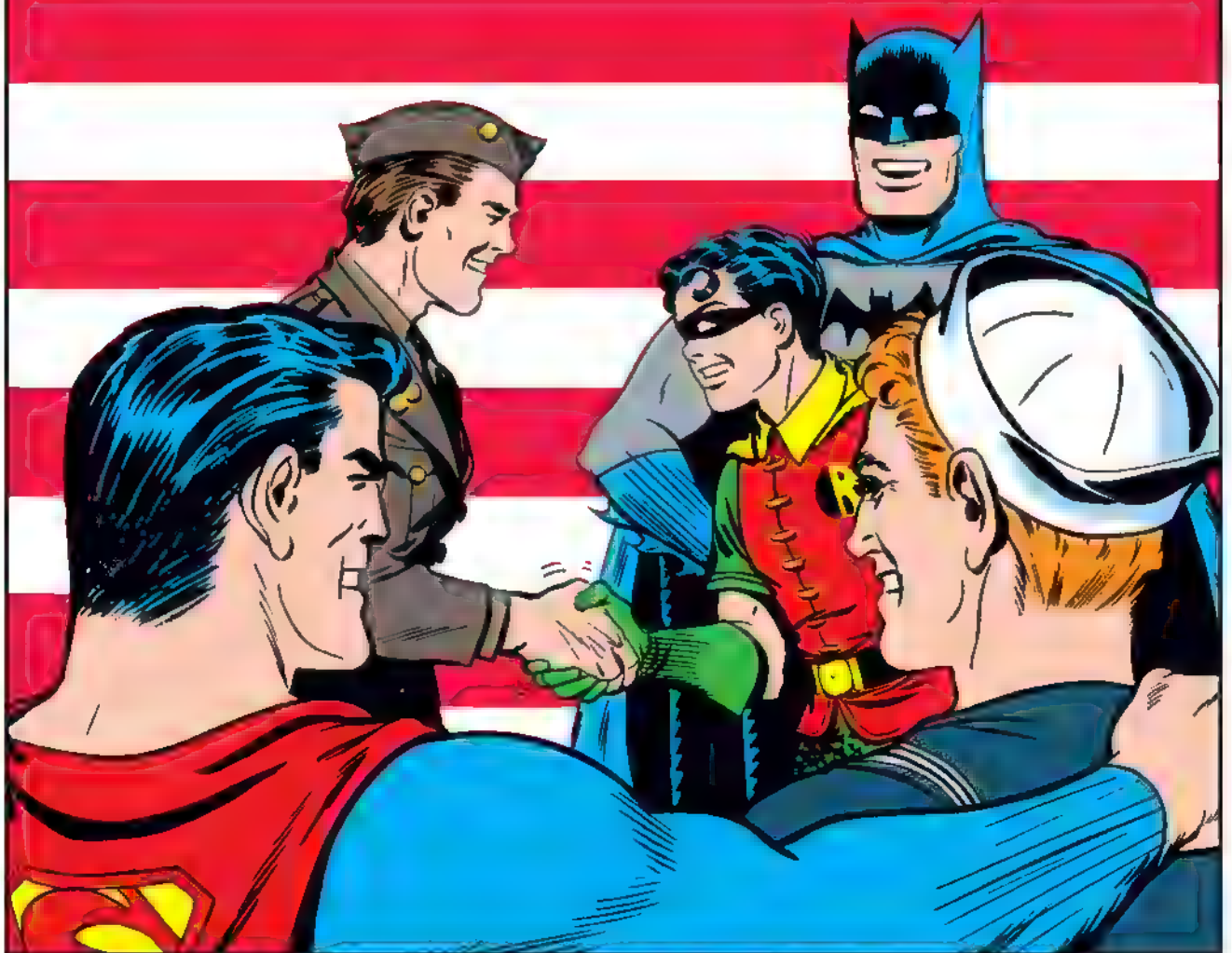
No.6

SUMMER ISSUE



WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

96
PAGES



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

BOB
KANE

View

?

Exclusive! in this issue -
the **BATMAN** Exposed!

SCOOP SCANLON WAS A NICE GUY, BUT HE WAS A NEWSHAWK. THEY SAID HE HAD INK IN HIS VEINS INSTEAD OF BLOOD. NOW SCOOP HAD NOTHING AGAINST THE BATMAN. HE ADMIRED THE FAMOUS CRIME-BUSTER... BUT SCOOP WAS A REPORTER, FIRST AND LAST. SO SCOOP DECIDED TO GET THE SCOOP OF HIS CAREER, OR SOMEBODY'S CAREER. HE WAS GOING TO TRACK DOWN THE BATMAN'S IDENTITY, EXPOSE HIM TO THE WORLD! BUT WHEN SCOOP PUT OUT HIS HAND TO UNMASK THE BATMAN... HE GOT HIS FINGERS BURNED - BECAUSE HE TRIED TO PROBE...

"THE SECRET OF
BRUCE WAYNE!"

STRANGE ACTION... IN A
STRANGE ROOM...

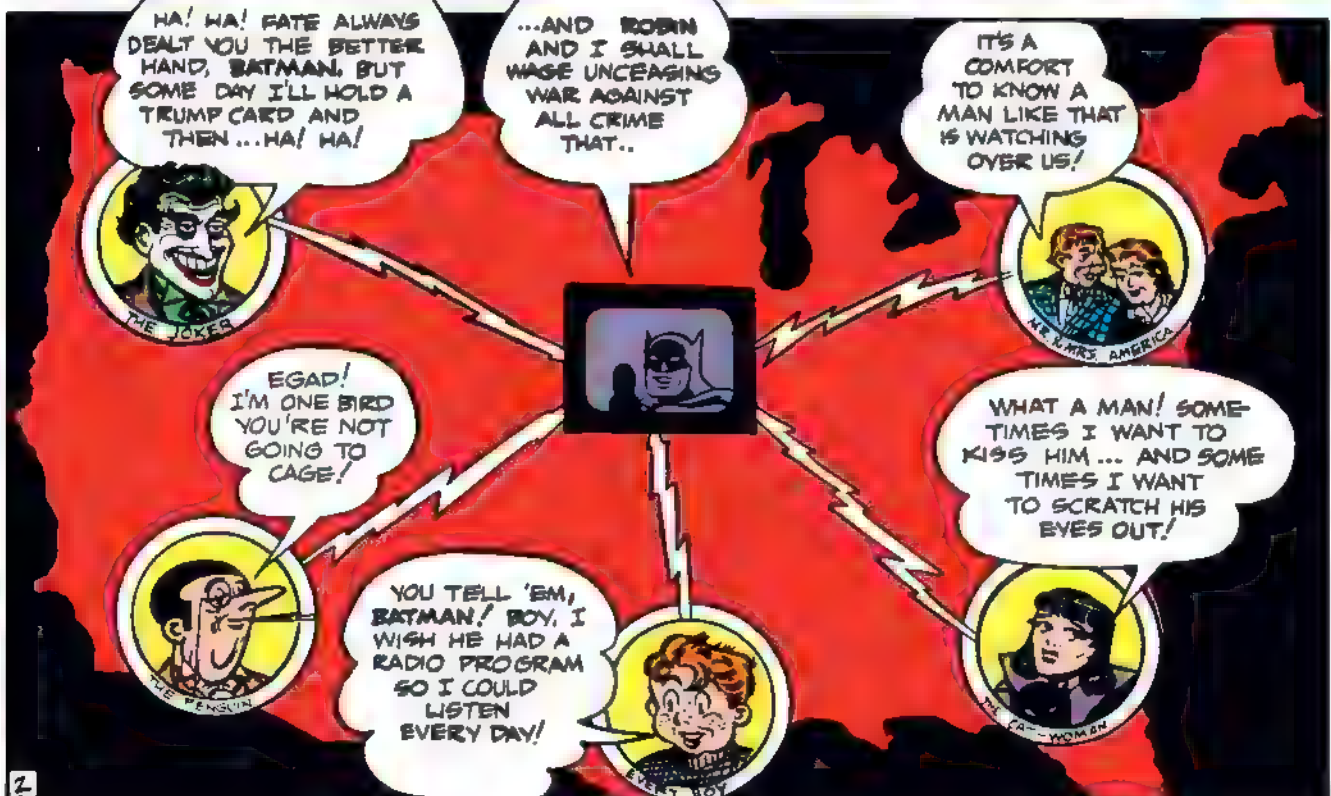
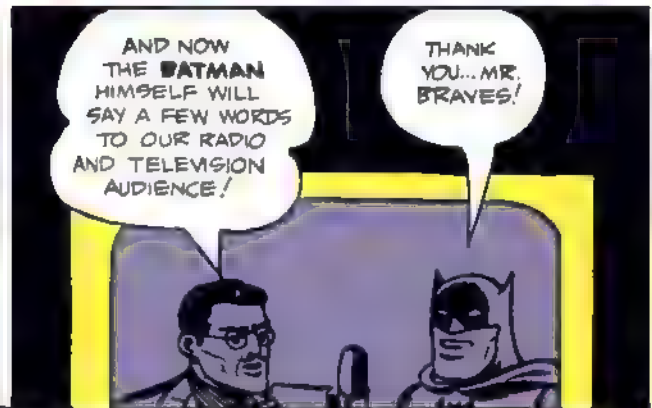
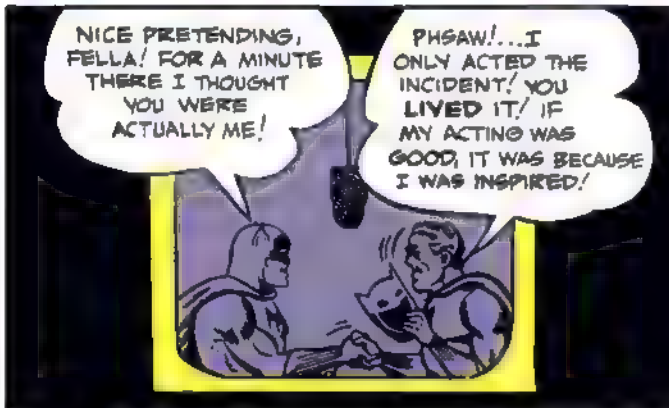
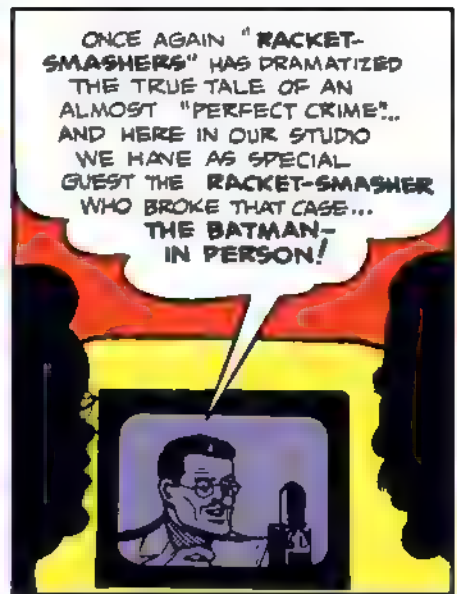
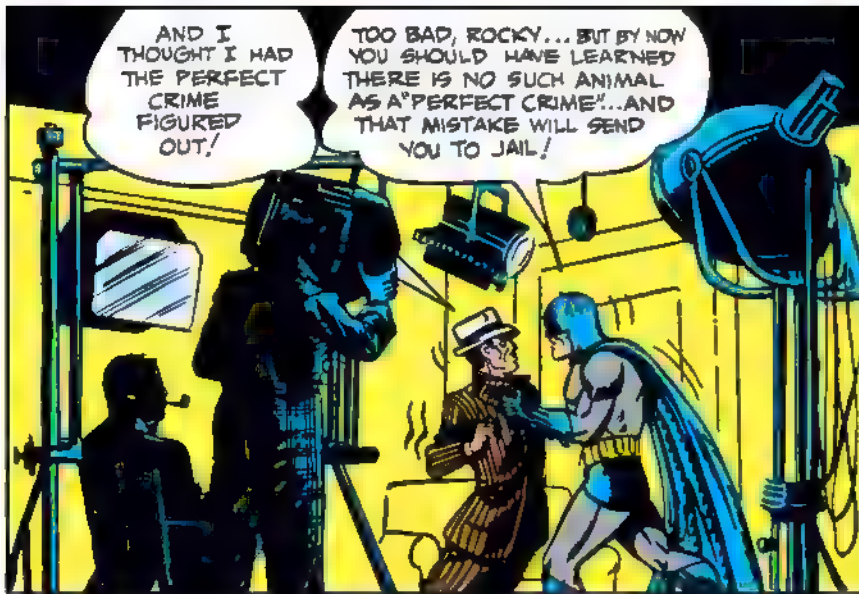
SCRAM,
ROCKY...
THE
BATMAN!

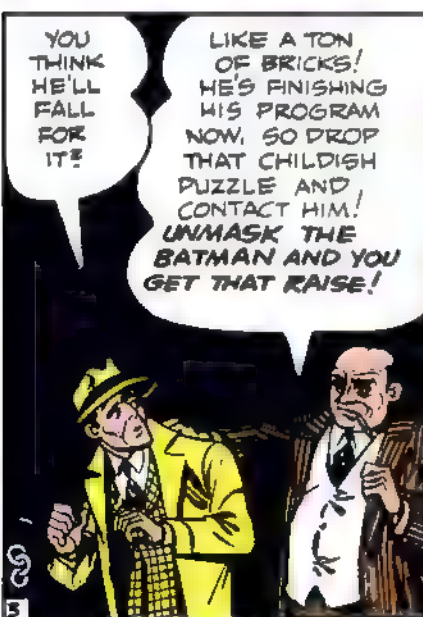
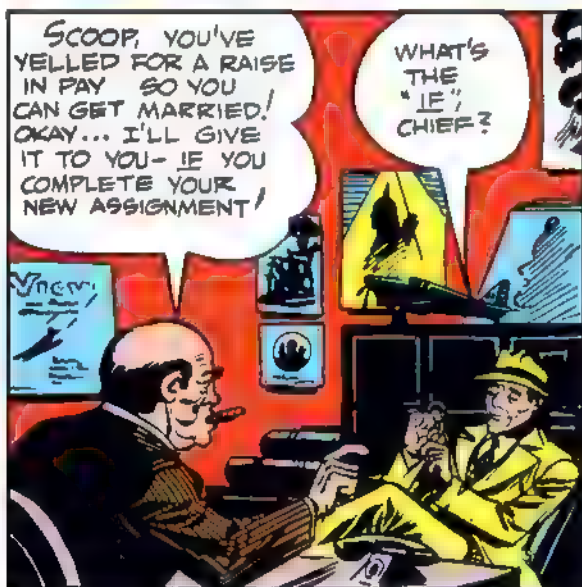
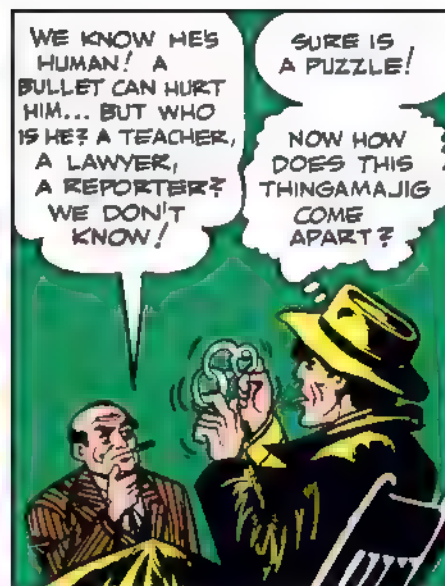
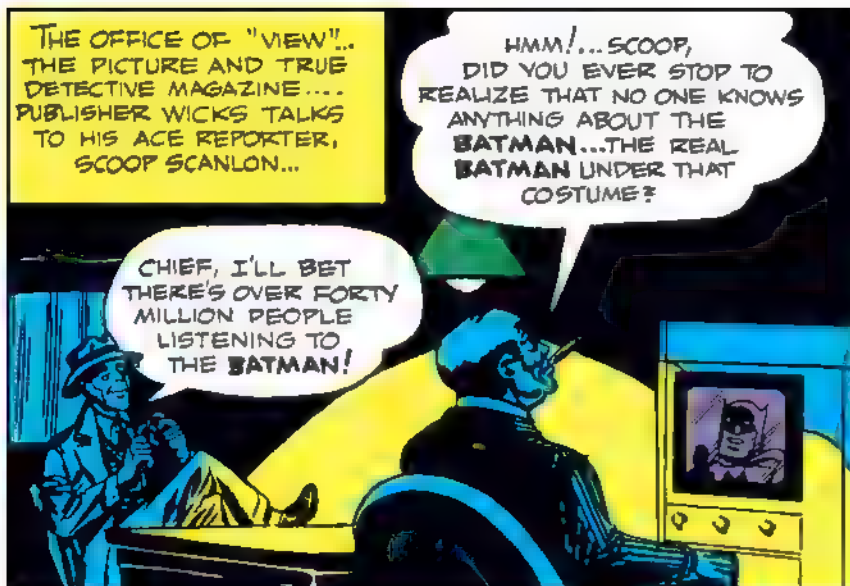
YOU'RE STAYING,
CHUM! YOU FORGOT
THAT SAFE HAD A
TIME-LOCK ON IT!

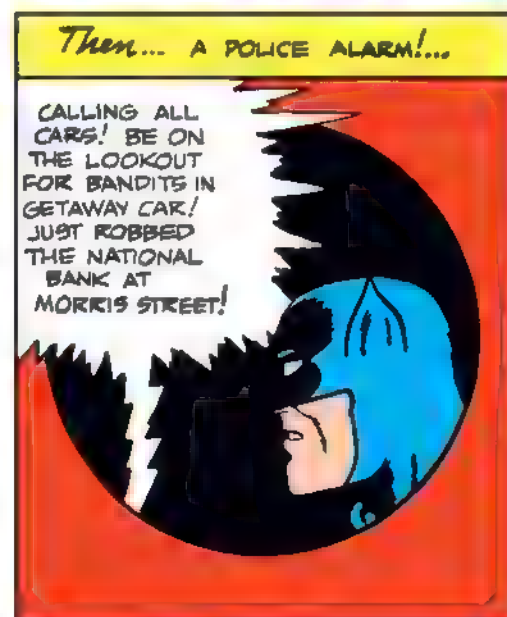
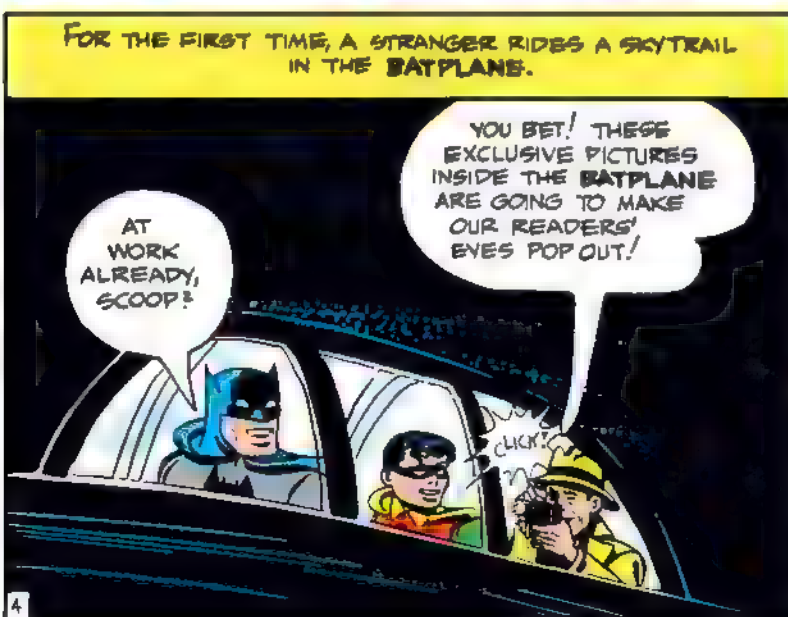
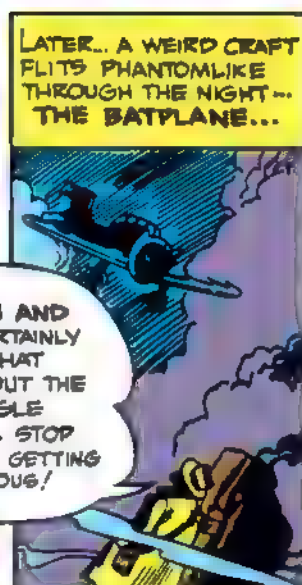
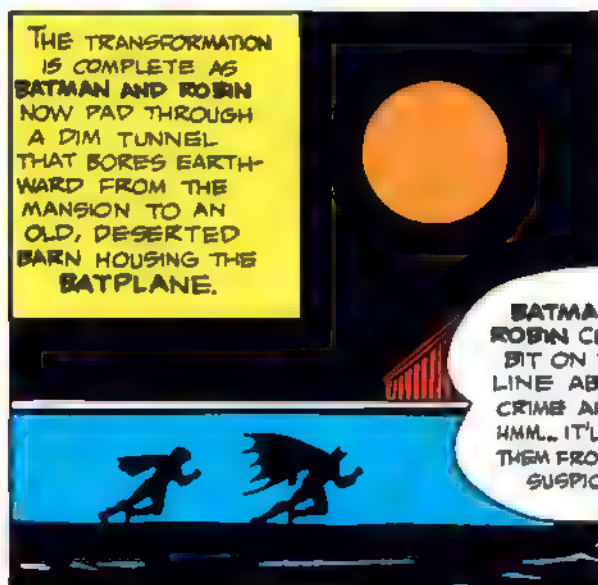
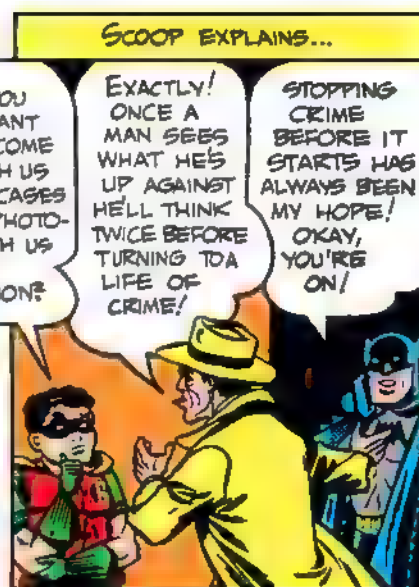
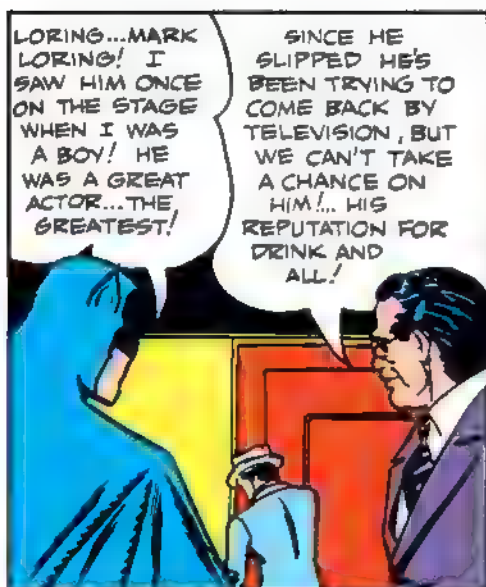
AMERICA'S NO. 1
CRIME-BUSTER 1

MAY 1942









INSTANTLY THE RACKET-SMASHERS GO TO WORK, PORING OVER A MAP OF GOTHAM CITY'S STREETS.

THEY CAN'T CUT UP BY WAY OF CHARLES STREET 'CAUSE THAT'S A ONE-WAY STREET! AND LARK STREET IS A DEAD-END!

THEN THEY'LL TRY STATE AVENUE! LET'S GO!

YOU TWO CERTAINLY KNOW YOUR BUSINESS!

STATE AVENUE! KEEN EYES DISCERN A CAR IN OVER-HASTY FLIGHT!

THAT'S IT! NO MAN DRIVES LIKE THAT UNLESS HE WANTS TO LOSE THE POLICE!

R-R-R-R-R

I'LL PICK OFF THEIR FRONT TIRE!

NICE SHOOTING, HAWKEYE! I'LL FIX THE STABILIZER AND WE'LL GO GET 'EM!

CRASH

TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

L-LOOK!

AND A FAST ONE... 'CAUSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE MUCH OUT OF TWO BLACK EYES!

HERE! DON'T CROWD EACH OTHER! I CAN ACCOMMODATE BOTH OF YOU!

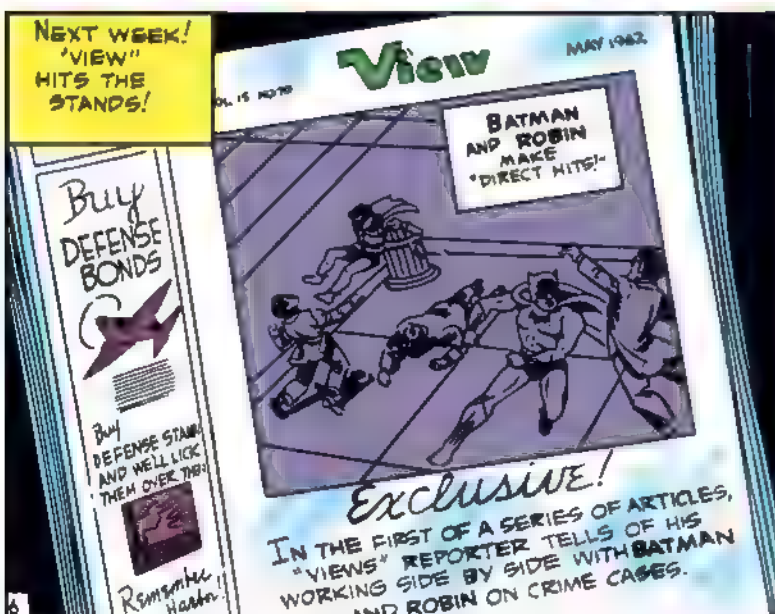
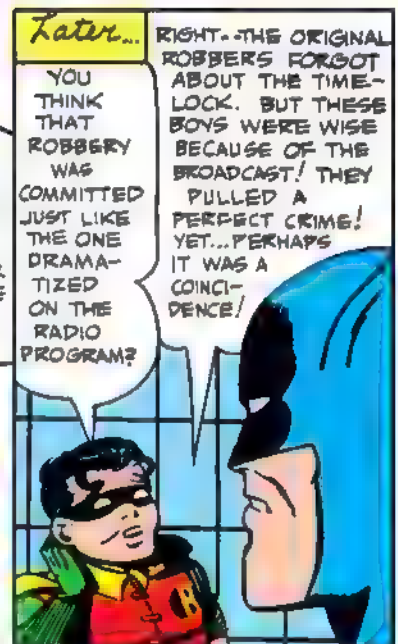
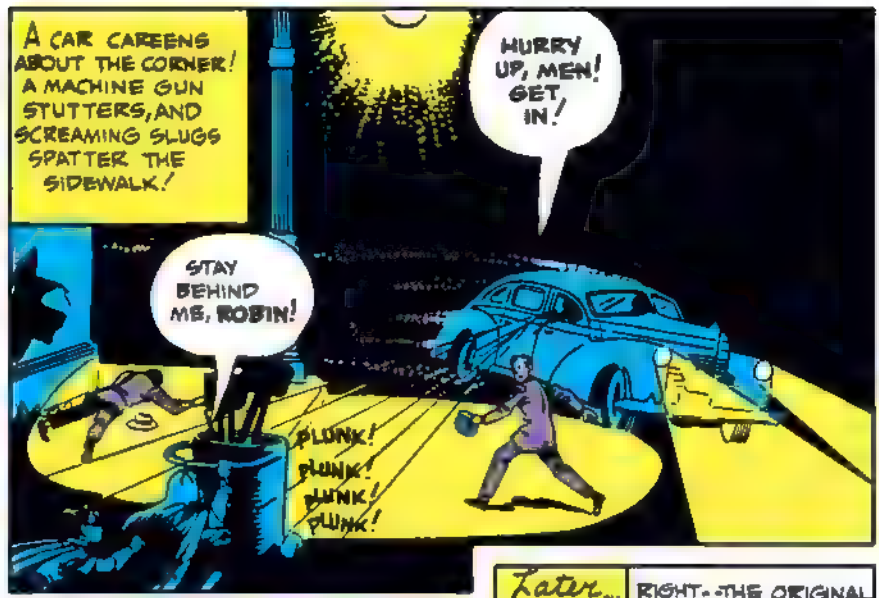
SOME SCOOP!

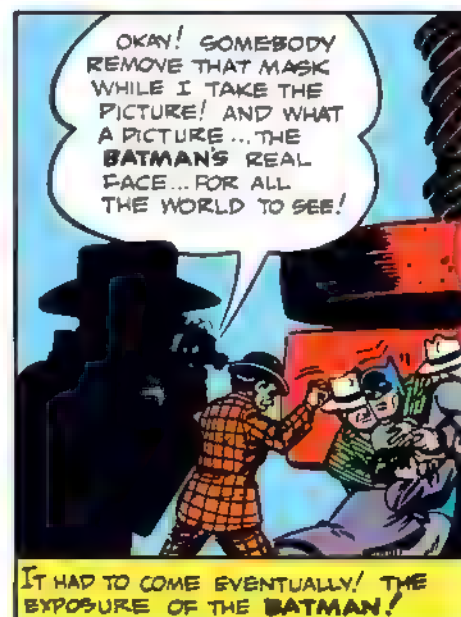
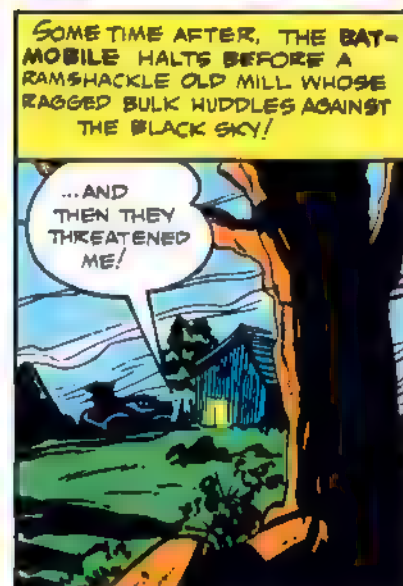
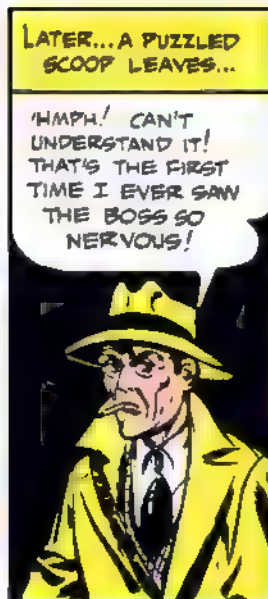
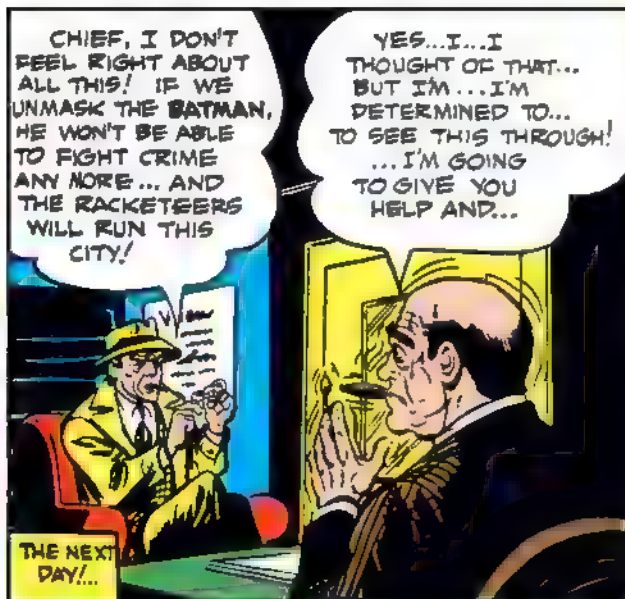
CLICK!

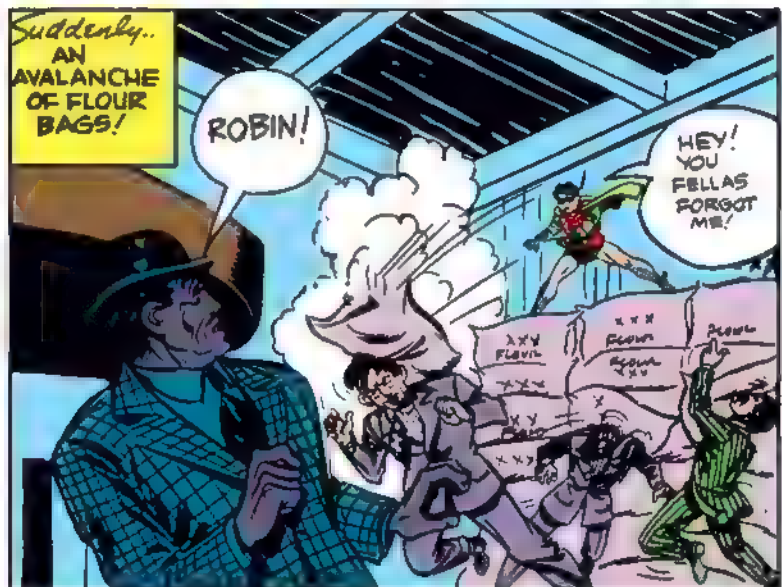
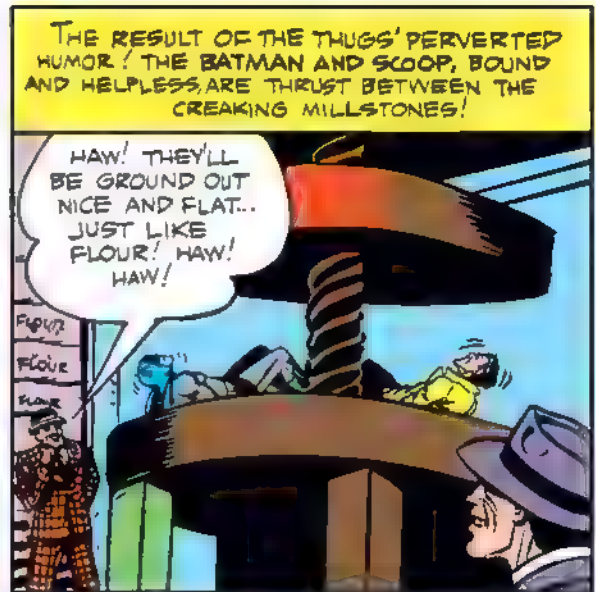
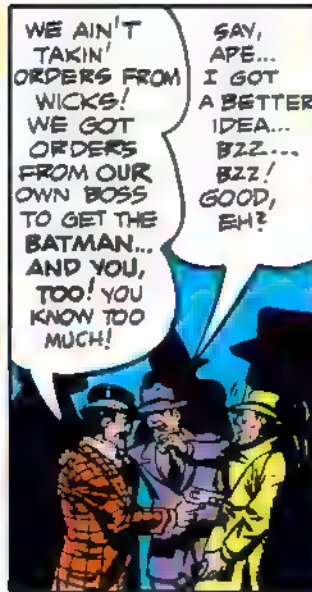
I GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!

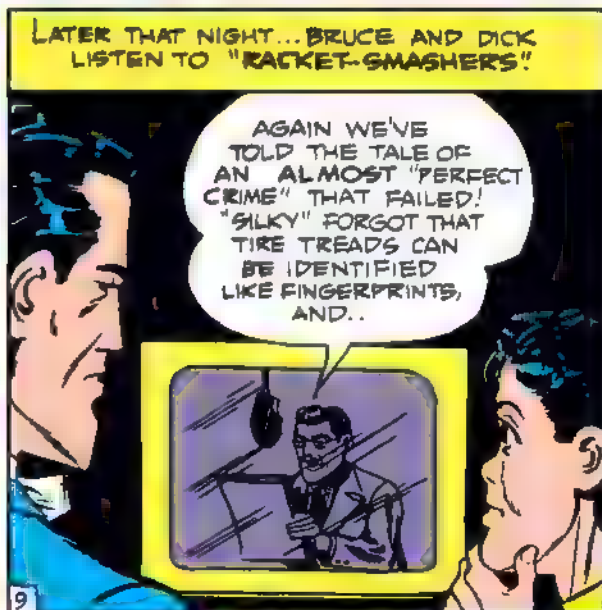
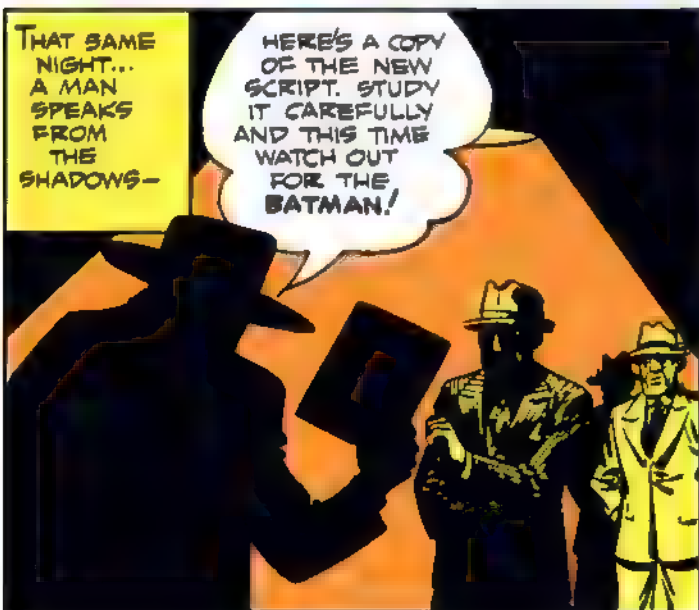
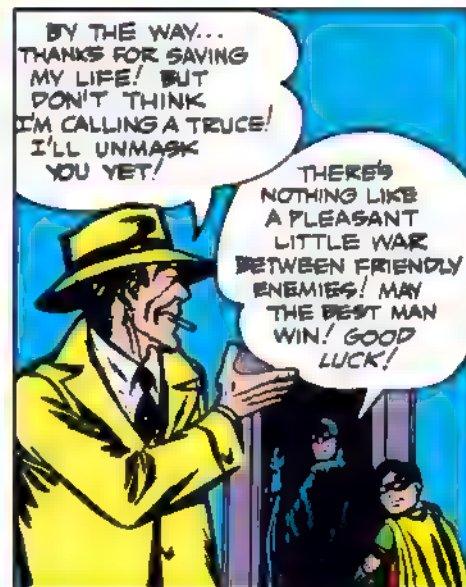
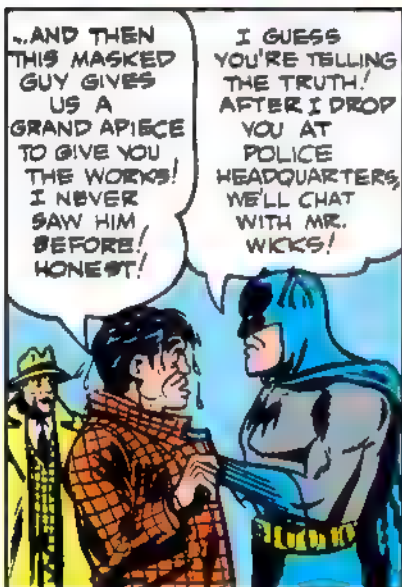
OOH!

MOVING WITH EYE-BLURRING SPEED, THE TWIN CRIME-SMASHERS TEAR INTO THE BANDITS!









THE NEXT DAY..

LOOK! A ROBBERY PULLED EXACTLY AS IT WAS DRAMATIZED OVER "RACKET-SMASHERS" THE OTHER NIGHT.. BUT THIS TIME WITHOUT MISTAKES!

THAT CLINCHES IT! THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE! PUT ON YOUR DUDS! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

FIRST STOP! THE SCRIPT WRITER OF "RACKET-SMASHERS" MR. BRENT!

WHERE DO YOU GET THE MATERIAL FOR YOUR SCRIPTS?

POLICE RECORDS! POLICE CHIEFS COOPERATE WITH US! I GET INSIDE INFORMATION! BUT WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?

NEXT STOP! THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MR. RAND!

YOU SAY THE SCRIPTS ARE GIVEN TO THE ACTORS A WEEK IN ADVANCE?

THIS IS A TELEVISION PROGRAM! OUR ACTORS CAN'T READ FROM SCRIPTS! ONLY THE ANNOUNCER, GRAVES, DOES THAT... AND HE'S GIVEN THE SCRIPT THE DAY BEFORE WE GO ON!

LORING AGAIN! NO... I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO OPENING YET!

PLEASE, I MUST HAVE WORK... OTHERWISE, I MUST SELL MY OLD COSTUMES AND..

STUDIO B

HERE, TAKE THIS! OH, IT'S NOT CHARITY! JUST A LOAN... TILL YOU GET A BIG PART AGAIN!

GOD BLESS YOU, SIR! I'M INDEBTED TO YOU! IF EVER I CAN SERVE YOU IN SOME WAY, DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ON ME!

AND WHILE THE BATMAN INVESTIGATES... SO DOES ANOTHER..

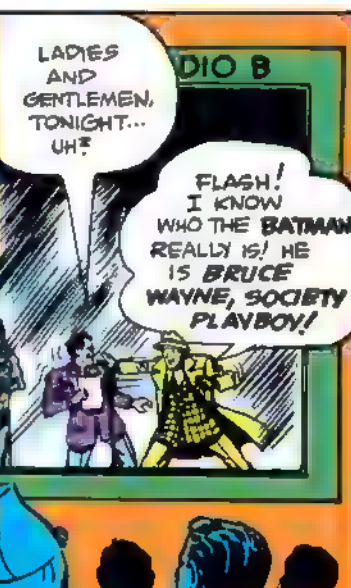
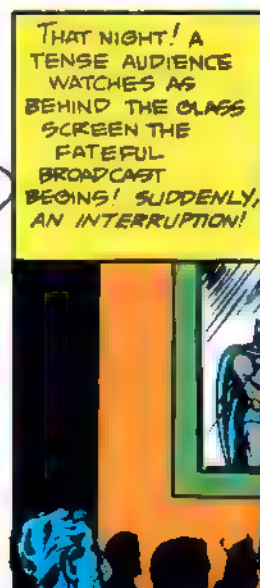
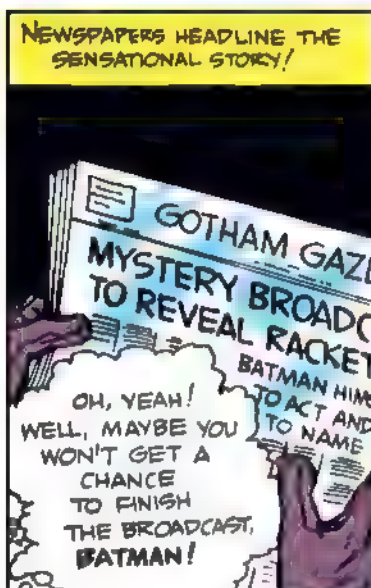
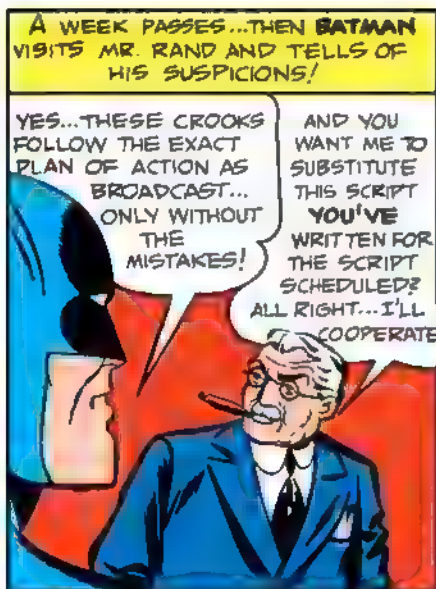
THIS FILE ON THE BATMAN SHOULD GIVE ME PLENTY OF DOPE! THE JOKER... THE PENGUIN... WHAT A PAIR! WONDER WHERE THEY ARE NOW?

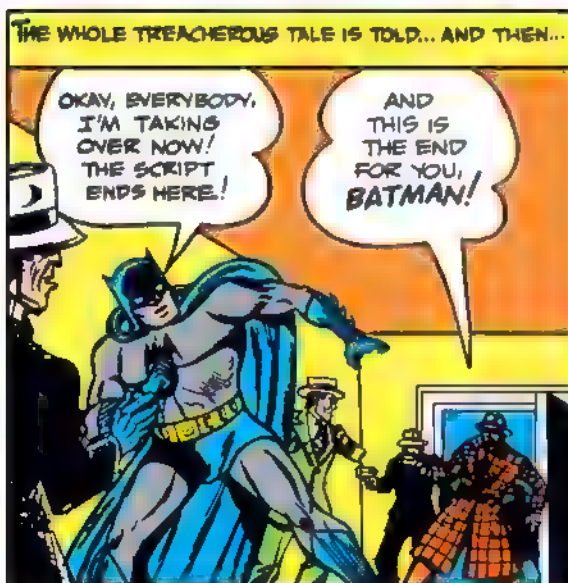
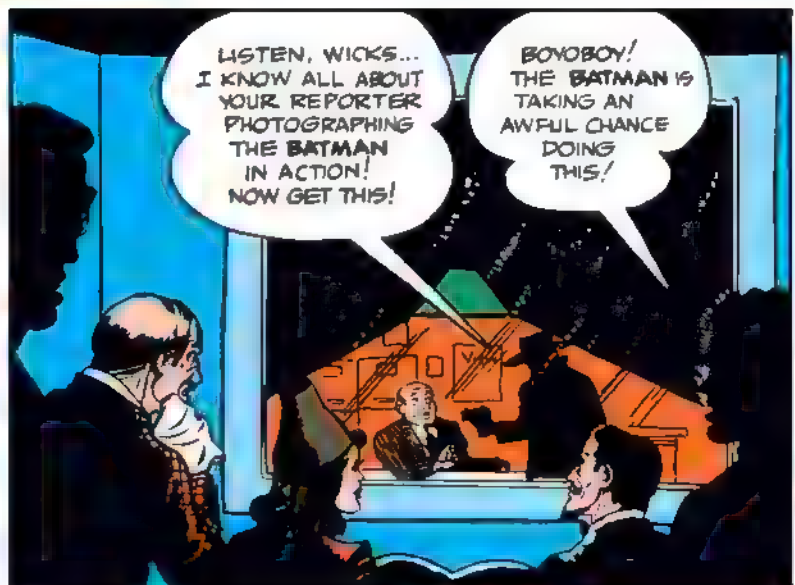
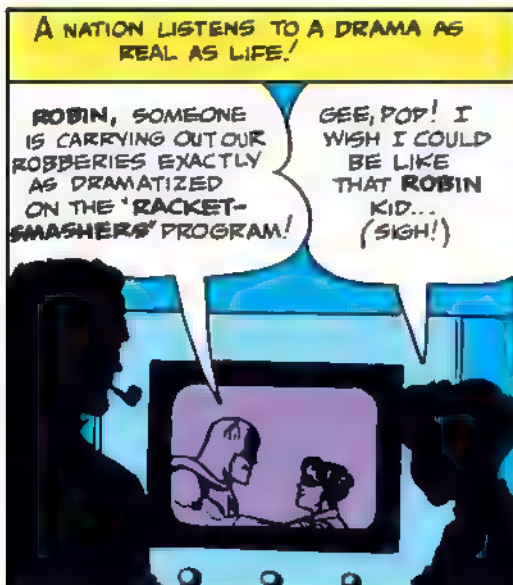
AS SCOOP SCANS THE FILES, SUDDENLY A QUEER FACT COMES TO HIS ATTENTION!

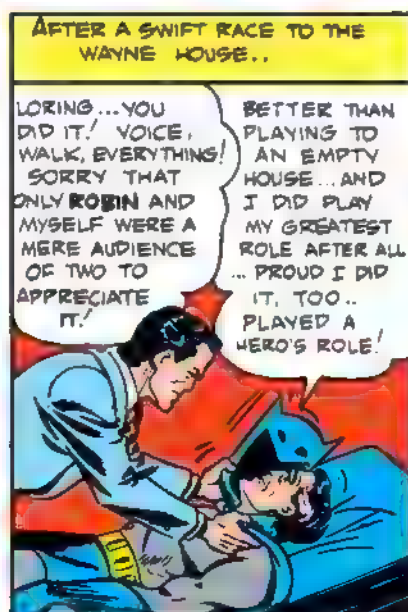
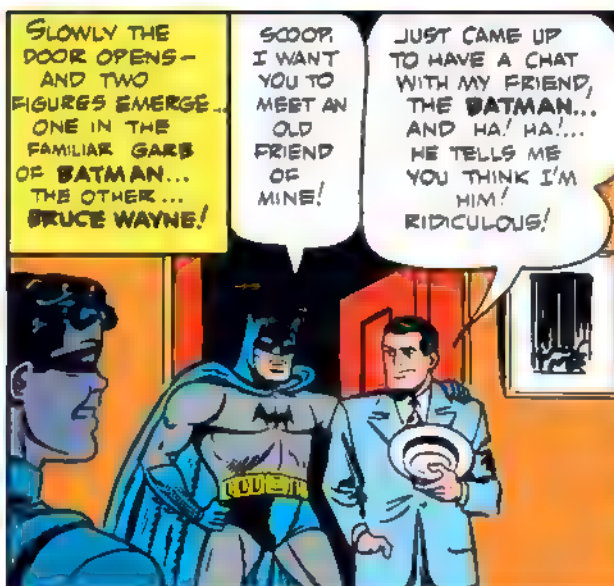
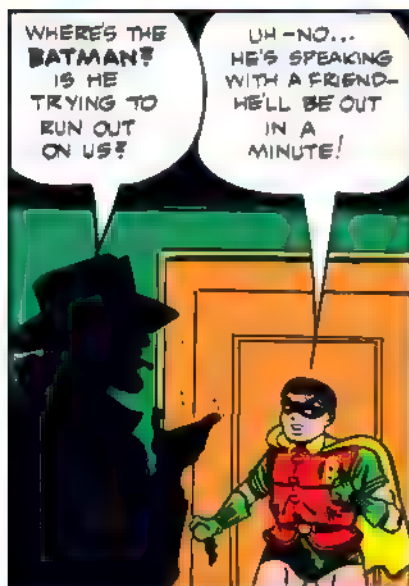
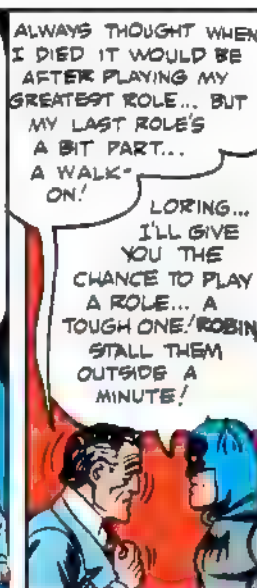
THIS PLAYBOY, BRUCE WAYNE... HE'S BEEN ON THE SCENE OF SEVERAL CASES! "THE SUPERSTITION MURDERS" "THE CASE OF THE PROPHETIC CRIMES" I WONDER NOW!

THE MORE THE ACE NEWS-HOUND READS, THE MORE HE BECOMES CONVINCED THAT...

BRUCE WAYNE MUST BE THE BATMAN! I'M SURE OF IT! WHY IS HE ALWAYS AROUND IN CASES THAT INVOLVE BATMAN? WHY? THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER!









The **BATMAN**

No. 65

The Winning Team!
BATMAN and **ROBIN**



Detective COMICS

JULY

ROBIN AND I
WANT TO WELCOME YOU
BOY COMMANDOS
TO DETECTIVE COMICS!

GEE! THANKS
BATMAN, WE'RE
GLAD TO BE IN
SUCH GOOD COMPANY!

YOU FELLOWS
ARE A SWELL
BUNCH OF
HARD-HITTING
CHARACTERS,
AND - WHEW!
- YOU HAVE
TERRIFIC
ADVENTURES!



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-



STATE TROOPERS! ... THAT GALLANT BODY OF MEN WHO CARRY THE LAW WITH THEM INTO UNSETTLED COUNTRY! IN EMERGENCIES THEY CARRY MAIL, ACT AS DOCTORS, AND RESCUE THE LOST AND SNOWBOUND! NO PERIL IS TOO GREAT, NO DISTANCE TOO LONG TO TRAVEL, AS THEY SPEED IN PURSUIT OF THEIR DUTY!

THIS IS THE TALE OF THESE UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR NATION'S POLICE SYSTEM! TO THEM... THIS STORY IS DEDICATED! HERE IS THE STORY OF HOW THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CAME TO LIVE AMONG THEM ... AND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY MET...

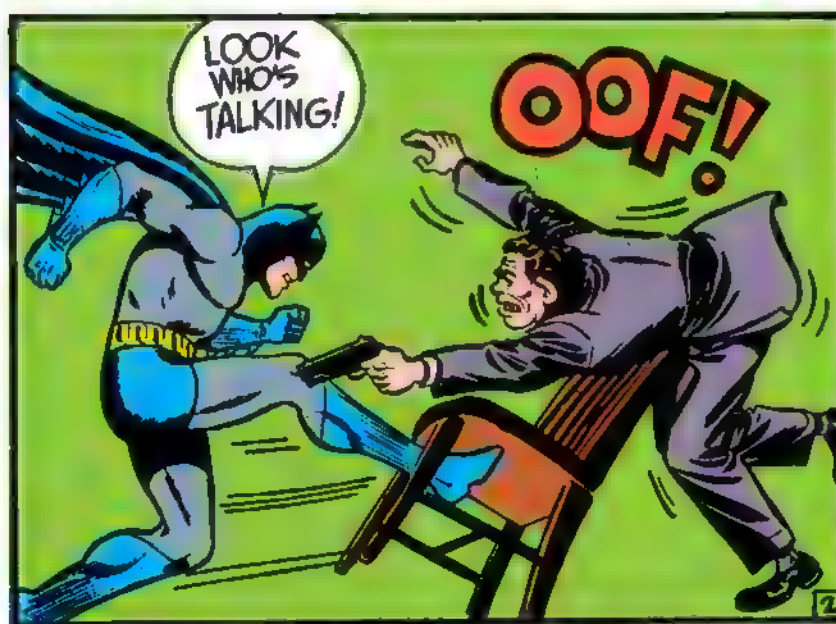
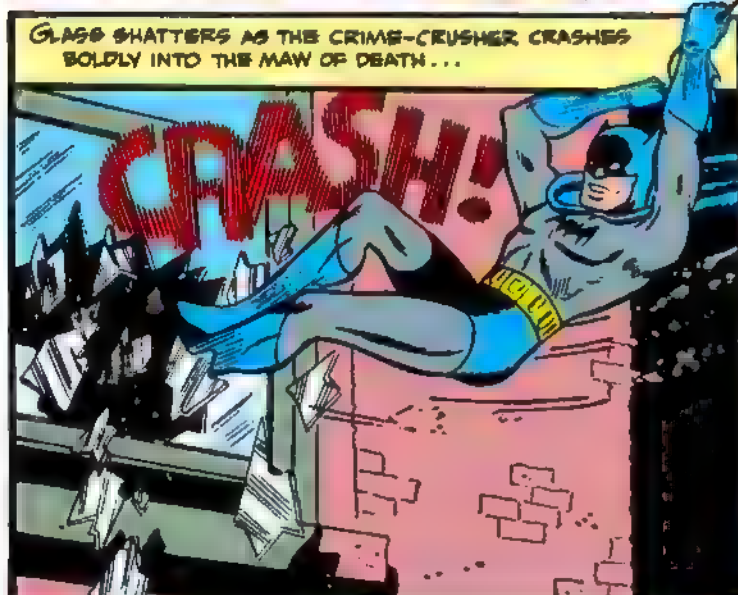
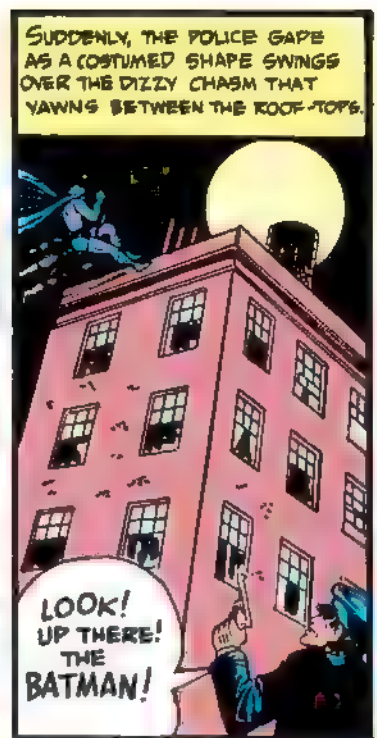
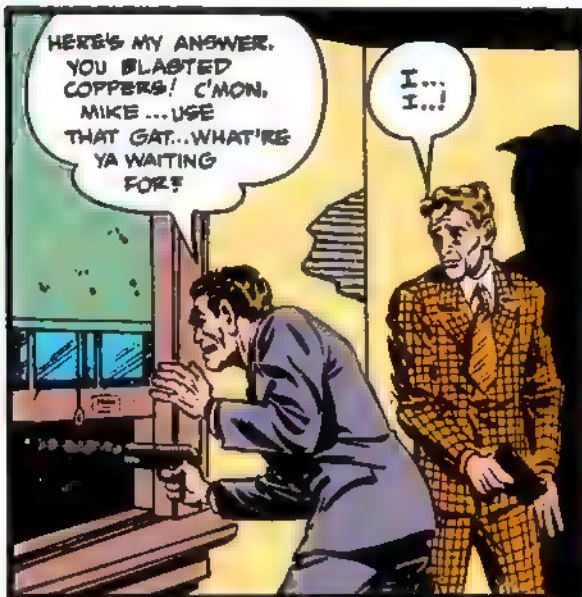
"THE COP WHO HATED THE BATMAN!"

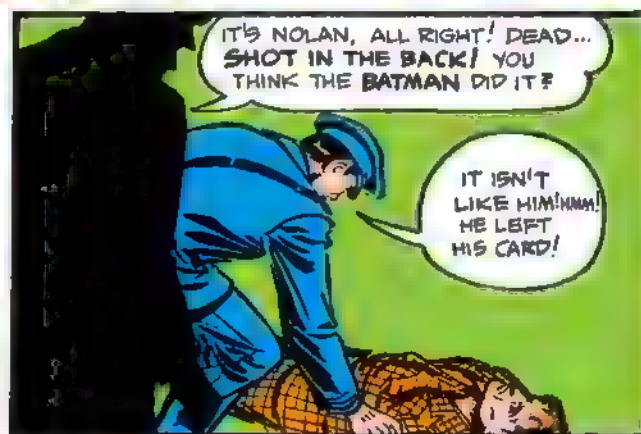
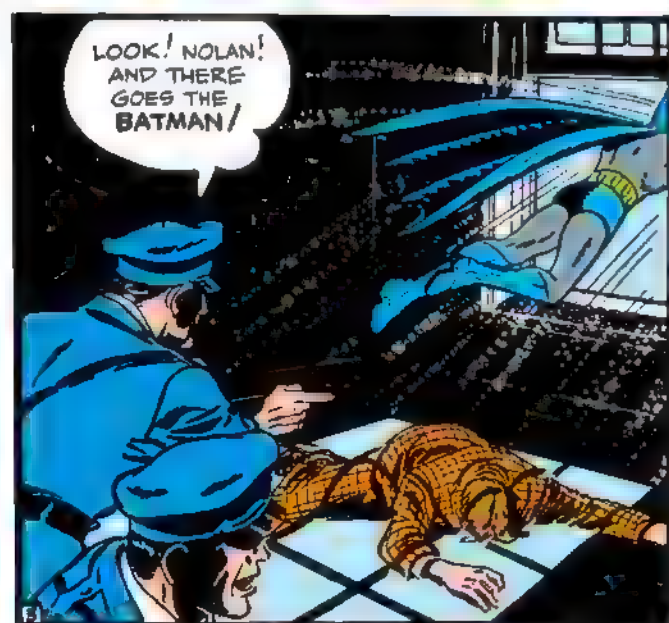
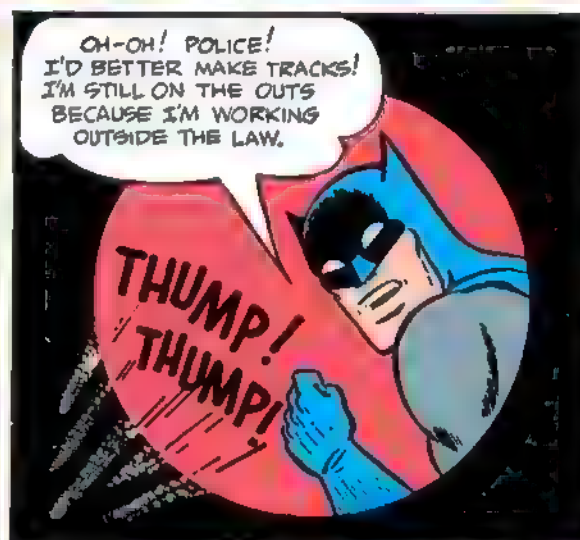
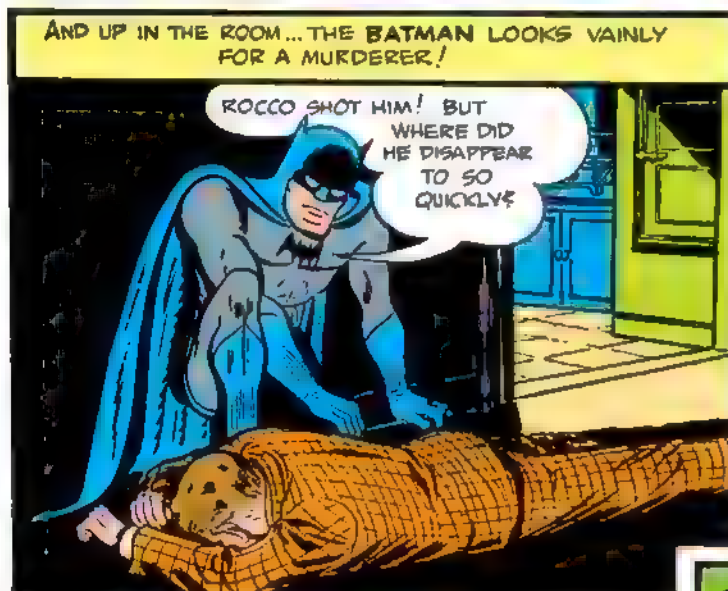
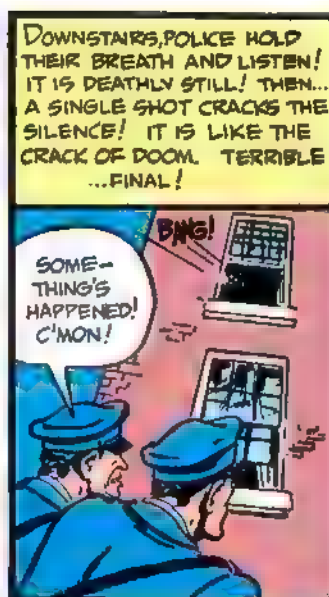
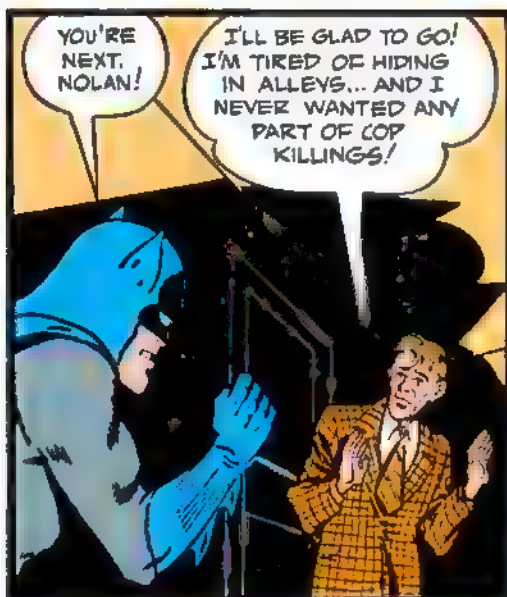
SO LET US GO BACK TO A NIGHT IN THE YEAR 1937, WHEN THE POLICE WERE CLOSING IN ON TWO TRAPPED CRIMINALS...

MIKE NOLAN!
NICK ROCCO!
WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED! WILL YOU COME OUT WALKING...OR ON STRETCHERS?

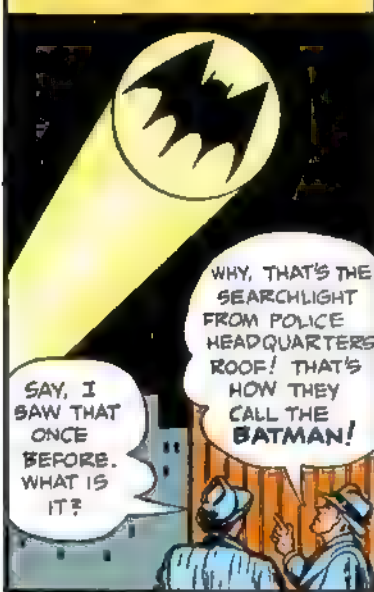
LET US GO BACK TO FIVE YEARS AGO, BEFORE THE BATMAN TOOK DAREDEVIL YOUNG ROBIN UNDER HIS WING... BEFORE THE POLICE LOOKED WITH APPROVAL ON THIS "OUTSIDE THE LAW" RACKET-BUSTER.







THE TIME...TODAY! THE PLACE...
GOTHAM CITY! IT IS NIGHT,
AND SUDDENLY A GIGANTIC CONE
OF LIGHT ETCHES AN EERIE
SYMBOL AGAINST THE SKY!



SAY, I
SAW THAT
ONCE
BEFORE.
WHAT IS
IT?

WHY, THAT'S THE
SEARCHLIGHT
FROM POLICE
HEADQUARTERS
ROOF! THAT'S
HOW THEY
CALL THE
BATMAN!

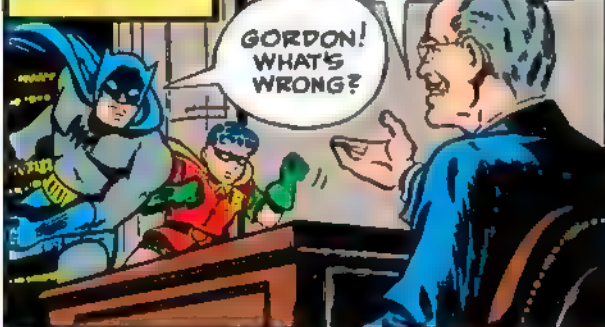
SCANT MOMENTS LATER, TWO LITHE FIGURES LOPE SWIFTLY OVER CITY STREETS—
BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!!...

LIFT YOUR FEET, ROBIN! GORDON
NEVER CALLS US UNLESS IT'S AN
EMERGENCY!



YEAH...
(PUFF...PUFF)
WONDER
WHAT'S UP?

SOON THE
DYNAMIC DUO
BURSTS IN ON
THE POLICE
COMMISSIONER



GORDON!
WHAT'S
WRONG?

HA! HA! TAKE
IT EASY! NO
CRIME-HUNTING
THIS TIME! I JUST
CALLED TO FIND OUT IF
YOU WANT TO GO WITH
ME ON MY VACATION!

I'M GOING TO
SPEND TWO WEEKS
UP IN ONE OF OUR
NORTHERN STATES...
AT THE BARRACKS
OF STATE
TROOPERS!



I THOUGHT YOU
AND ROBIN
WOULD FIND IT
VERY INTERESTING
TO WATCH THEIR
WORK AT FIRST
HAND.



I WOULDN'T
MIND! OKAY,
GORDON,
YOU'VE GOT
COMPANY!

GEE!
SOUNDS
SWELL TO
ME! LET'S
GO, HUH?

TWO DAYS' TRAVEL BRINGS THE
TRIO TO THE SNOW-COVERED
MOUNTAIN OF A NORTHERN STATE...



IT'S SPRING AND THERE'S
STILL SNOW
UP HERE!

DON'T FORGET,
ROBIN, THIS
IS HIGH MOUNTAIN
LAND.

HELLO, CAPTAIN...
I'VE BROUGHT
ALONG A COUPLE
OF GUESTS--
BATMAN
AND ROBIN!



BATMAN AND
RO...? I'M
GLAD TO MEET
YOU! WAIT
TILL MY MEN FIND
OUT ABOUT THIS!
THEY'LL MOB
YOU!

LOOK!
THERE'S
THE
BARRACKS
NOW!

AND THE EAGER TROOPERS
DO MOB THEIR HONORARY
FELLOW OFFICERS.



HOW ABOUT
AN AUTOGRAPH?

I'M
SHAKING
HANDS WITH
THE BATMAN!
BOYBOY!



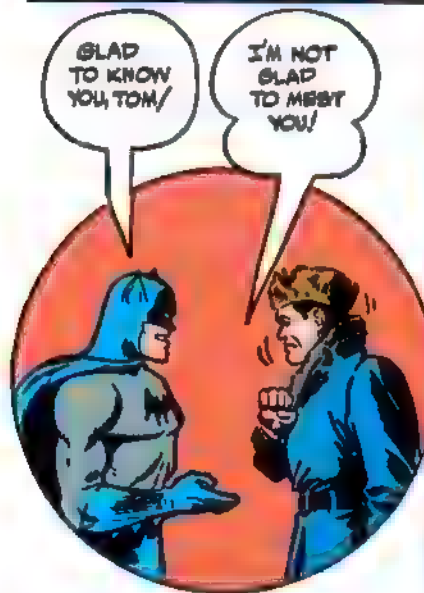
HERE COMES TOM BOLTON! LOOKS LIKE HE'S BAGGED SOMETHING!

TOM'S ONE OF OUR FINEST OFFICERS! WE'RE PROUD OF HIS RECORD UP HERE!



HELLO, SIR...LOOK WHO I CAUGHT HIDING UP IN THAT OLD SHACK ON THE SOUTH TRAIL! SOAPIE JOE, THE SAFE-CRACKER!

FINE WORK, TOM! JUST FOR THAT, I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR HONORED GUEST... THE BATMAN!



GLAD TO KNOW YOU, TOM!

I'M NOT GLAD TO MEET YOU!



BUT...BUT TOM...THIS IS THE BATMAN? THE BATMAN!

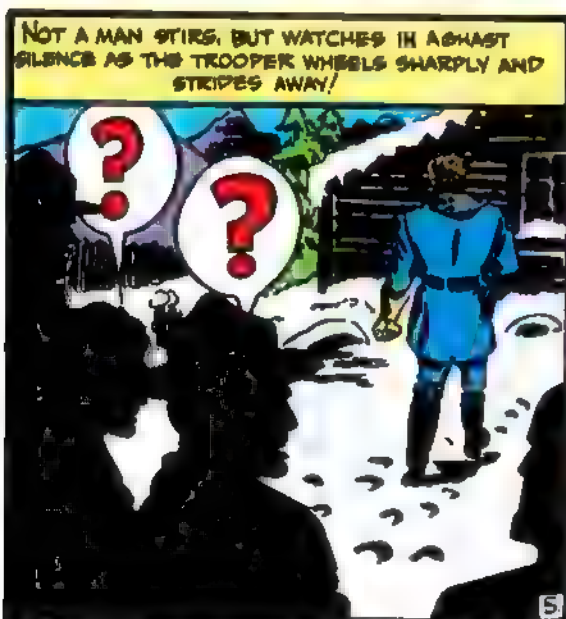
SO WHAT?... I STILL DON'T WANT TO MEET HIM! MAY I BE EXCUSED, SIR?



SAY...AFTER ALL...I NEVER MET YOU BEFORE. WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY HAVE AGAINST ME?

I NEVER MET YOU BEFORE...BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE YOU! AND TAKE YOUR HAND AWAY BEFORE I KNOCK IT OFF!

IN THOSE EYES, THE BATMAN SEES HATE...SEARING, BURNING HATE...HATE SO STRONG IT BEATS AGAINST HIM LIKE A SOLID WALL OF FLAME!



NOT A MAN STIRS, BUT WATCHES IN AGHAST SILENCE AS THE TROOPER WHEELS SHARPLY AND STRIDES AWAY!



TOM NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT BEFORE!

FORGET IT! IF THAT BOY HATES ME, HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR IT! TELL ME, IS HE HONEST?

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR HIS ACTIONS... I...



HONEST? THE LAST TIME SOMEONE TRIED TO BRIBE TOM, THE CROOK ALMOST HAD HIS BLOCK KNOCKED OFF!

THEN WHY DOES BOLTON HATE ME? HMM...I'VE COME UP AGAINST MYSTERIES BEFORE...BUT THIS IS THE STRANGEST!

THAT NIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD, THE BATMAN HAS A NIGHTMARE!

I'M NOT GLAD TO MEET YOU!

...NEVER MET YOU BEFORE. STILL DON'T LIKE YOU!

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!

WHY?... WHY?

SUDDENLY, A FRENZIED CRY RINGS THROUGH THE BARRACKS.

WAKE UP, EVERY-BODY! THE DAM HAS BROKEN! THE WHOLE VALLEY IS FLOODED!

IT'S THE SPRING THAW! THE MELTED SNOWS MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR THAT DAM!

...WE'LL NEED EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN TONIGHT!

FLOOD! THE ANGRY RIVER TORRENT THUNDERS THROUGH THE TOWN, SWEEPING DESTRUCTION BEFORE IT!

MAMA!

HELP!

POLICE BOATS CHUG THROUGH THE SWIRLING WATERS, PLUCKING A LIFE HERE AND THERE FROM DEATH'S COLD CLASP!

AND AMONG THE MOST VALIANT AND HEROIC OF THE POLICE IS TOM BOLTON!

GOD BLESS YOU, YOUNG MAN!

WHILE BATMAN AND ROBIN ALSO DO THEIR SHARE!

HELP! HELP ME!

HIGHER ROBIN! UGH! THAT'S IT!

UGH!...OKAY! GOT IT... NOW SLIDE HIM OUT... EASY NOW!

THEN BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SPOT THOSE HUMAN JACKALS WHO PREY ON CATASTROPHES—THE LOOTERS!

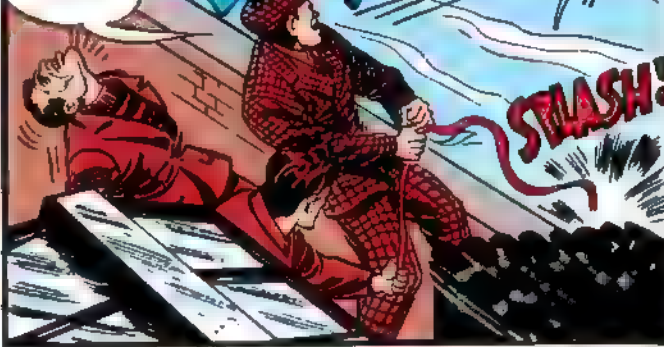


WHY, THE VERMIN! GET THAT MAN TO THE BOAT, ROBIN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE SCAVENGERS... PRONTO!



A LASSO LOOPS INTO PLACE, AND THE BATMAN'S MUSCLED FORM CANNONBALLS INTO THE LOOTERS!

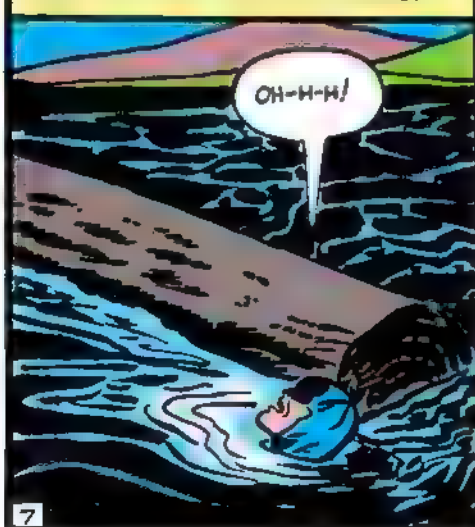
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?



DESPERATION LENDS COURAGE...EVEN TO RATS... AND A MAD ONRUSH SLAMS THE BATMAN OFF-BALANCE...

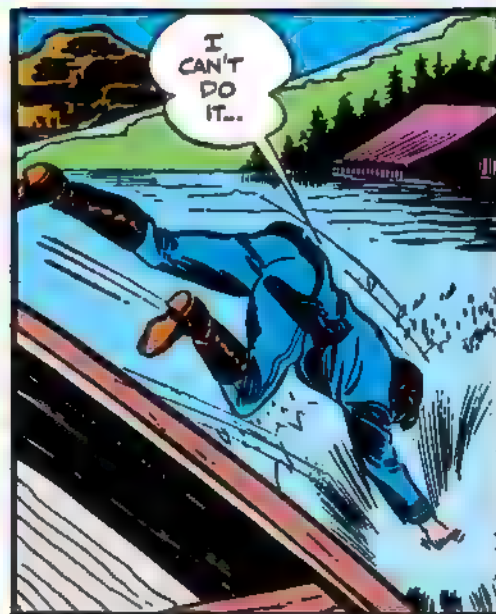


BEFORE THE BATMAN CAN RECOVER, A HUGE LOG, RIDING THE WATERS, THUDS HIM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.



ONLY ONE PAIR OF EYES SEES ALL THIS...EYES IN WHICH DOUBT WAVES FOR A MOMENT...AS THE BATMAN SINKS BENEATH THE WAVES!

THE MAN I'VE HATED ALL THESE YEARS...DROWNING... I CAN LET HIM DIE WITH NO ONE BEING THE WISER...BUT YET.... I ...



ANGRY WAVES BATTER THE BRAVE TROOPER. YET, SOMEHOW, HE MANAGES TO FIGHT HIS WAY TO THE BATMAN'S SIDE...



... AND BRING HIM BACK TO THE POLICE BOAT!



GOSH, MISTER... THANKS! YOU SAVED MY PAL'S LIFE!

HERE! TAKE HIM!

LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE BARRACKS. THE BATMAN SEEKS OUT TOM...



THANKS, BOLTON! YOU KNOW, I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT/ YOU HATE ME... AND YET YOU SAVED MY LIFE/ WHY?

I'D SAVE A DOG FROM DROWNING! I'M AN OFFICER OF THE LAW... IT'S MY DUTY TO SAVE LIFE... EVEN YOURS.

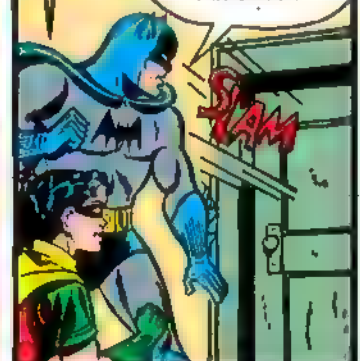
C'MON, BOLTON... WHY DON'T YOU SKIP THIS HATE STUFF? LET'S SHAKE HANDS AND BE FRIENDS!

I'D RATHER SHAKE HANDS WITH A RATTLESNAKE FIRST...



HE CAN'T TALK TO YOU THAT WAY! I'LL...

EASY, ROBIN... THAT BOY'S CARRYING AROUND A LOT OF TROUBLE AND IT'S UP TO HIM TO GET RID OF IT ALL BY HIMSELF!



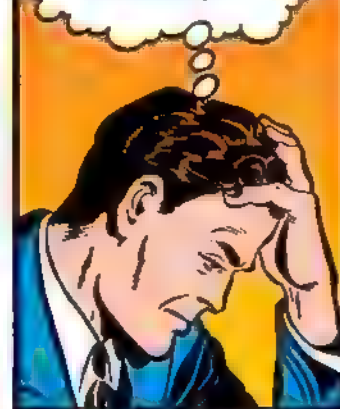
ALONE IN HIS ROOM... TOM DRAWS OUT A SMALL STRONGBOX...



BANDIT MIKE NOLAN DEAD! ROCCO ELUDES CAPTURE.

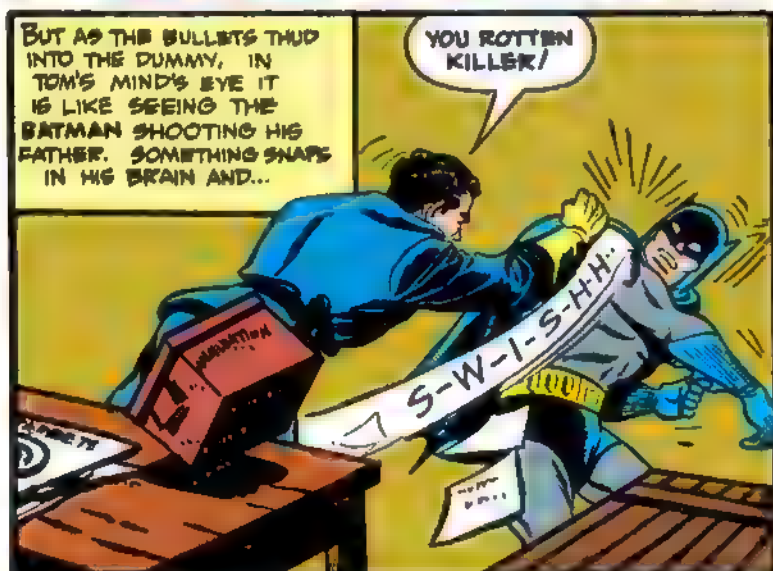
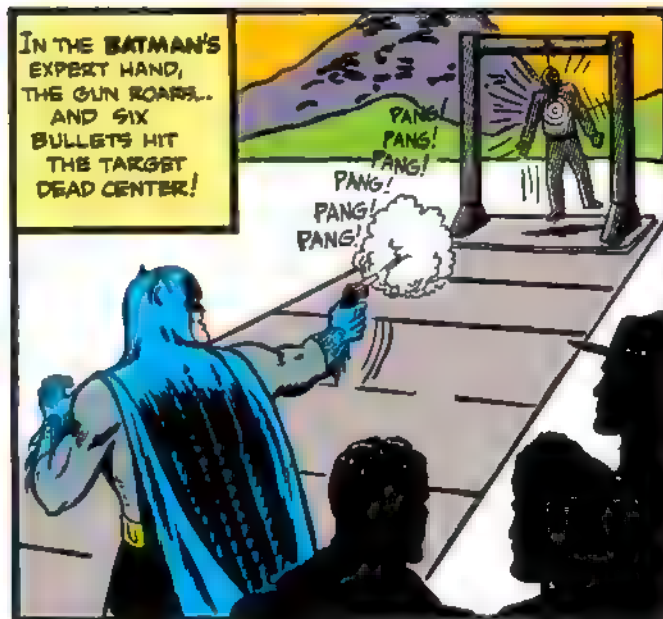
POLICE DISCOVER NOLAN'S BODY SHOT IN THE BACK! NOLAN WITH WEAPON. BATMAN FLEES SCENE AS POLICE ARRIVE.

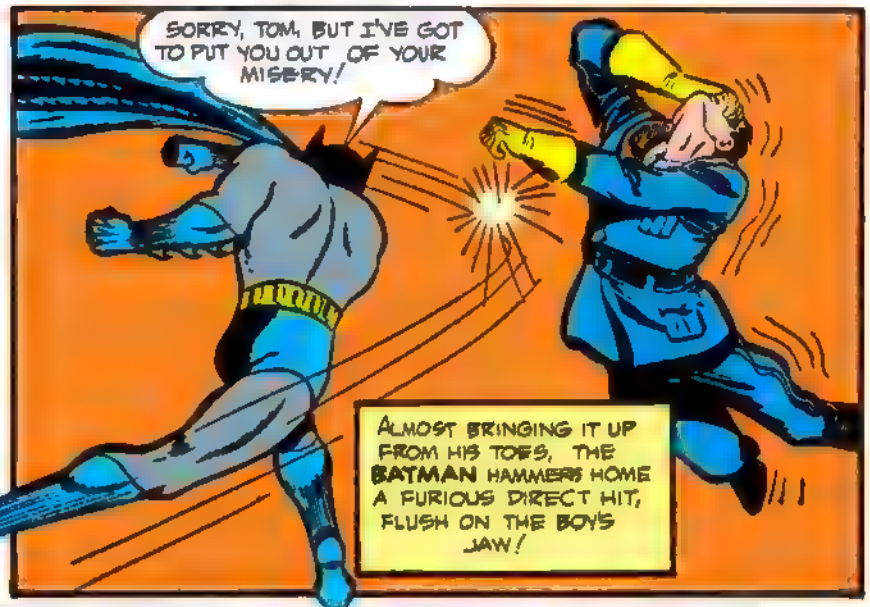
DAD! DAD! I STILL REMEMBER! I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A POLICEMAN, SO I CHANGED MY NAME... BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU'RE MY FATHER!



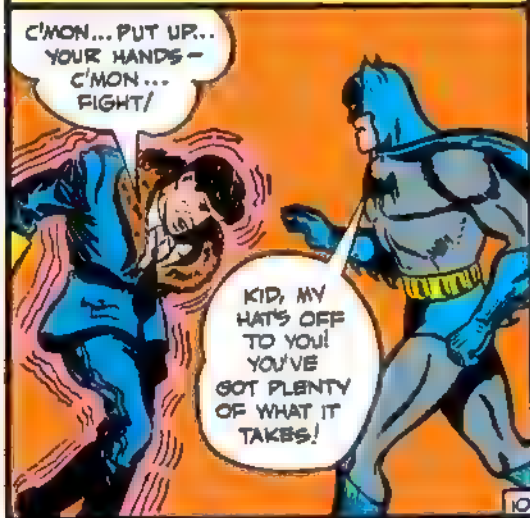
NOR THAT I'M MIKE NOLAN'S SON... AND THAT THE BATMAN SHOT YOU IN THE BACK!







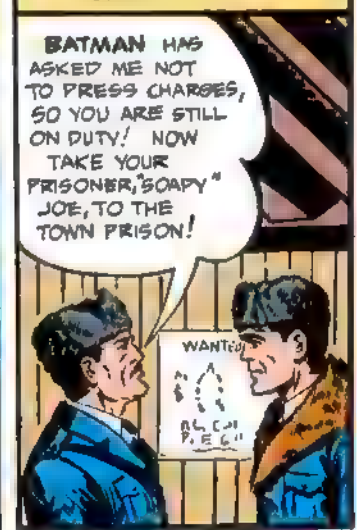
NO ONE COULD GET UP AFTER THAT SLEDGE-HAMMER BLOW, YET TOM DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!

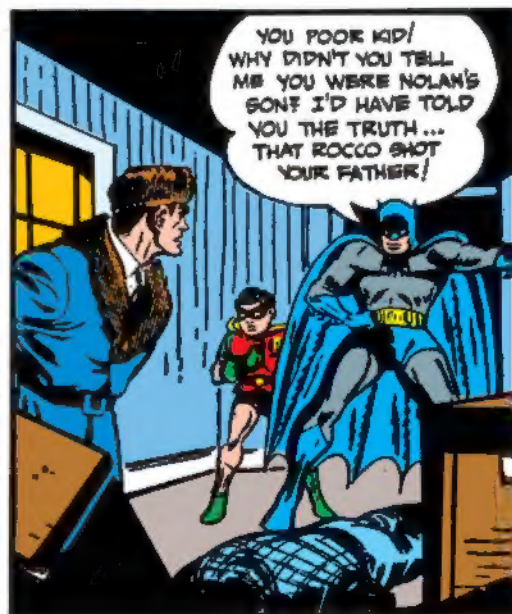
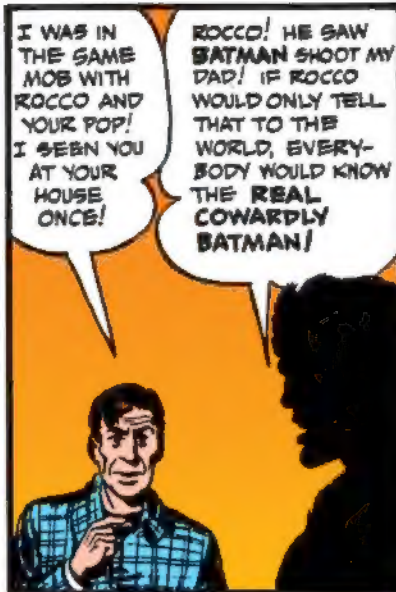


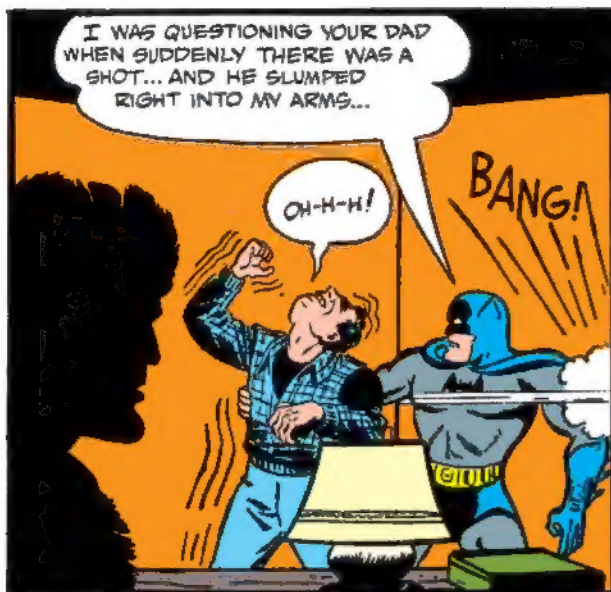
BUT THOSE TERRIFIC PUNCHES HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL... AND THE GALLANT LAD SUDDENLY SLUMPS FORWARD... BEATEN AT LAST!



THE NEXT DAY...TOM BOLTON REPORTS TO HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER...







A SCANT MOMENT AFTER, TWO MANTLED FIGURES SHOOT DOWNHILL AT EXPRESS TRAIN SPEED...TOWARD THE OPEN CHASM...



SUDDENLY, ARMS STRETCH OUT... REVEALING THE MANTLE ENDS TIED TO ANKLES! RESULT... WIND-CATCHING SAILS THAT GIVE ENOUGH LIFT TO CLEAR THE CHASM!



THE SHORT-CUT... AND THE TRAILING TEAM SWOOPS BIRD-LIKE UPON THE FUGITIVE BANDITS!



LOOK OUT BELOW!

X MARKS THE SPOT!



THEY CERTAINLY USE HARD WOOD FOR SKIS, DON'T THEY?

I'M PUTTING YOU ON ICE, ROCCO, FOR SOMEBODY ELSE!

ALL HIS PENT-UP EMOTIONS EXPLODE INTO HATE-CHARGED FURY AS TOM TEARS INTO HIS FATHER'S KILLER!

Later...

THERE! IT'S GONE! THE WEIGHT I'VE CARRIED FOR YEARS! I'M GLAD! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE BATMAN NEVER USES A GUN... I'M SORRY!

SORRY FOR WHAT? FOR HONORING YOUR FATHER'S MEMORY? DON'T BE SORRY, TOM. YOU'RE A GOOD SON... AND A GOOD COP! SO LET'S SHAKE HANDS, PAL!



HERE! I SAVED HIM FOR YOU!

NO...NO! HELL KILL ME... HE'LL KILL ME!

NO...I'M JUST GOING TO BEAT YOUR HEAD OFF!



THIS IS FOR DAD, AND THIS... AND THIS!



The End



Having earned the respect of the police force and the fear of criminals, Batman and Robin patrol the streets of Gotham City, protecting the innocent from returning super-villains such as the Joker, Catwoman and Scarecrow. But now the Dynamic Duo will meet an all-new adversary: the Penguin, the enigmatic master criminal who terrorizes the population of Gotham City with his deeds.

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This third volume of **BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE** collects the Dark Knight Detective's early adventures from **BATMAN #8-11**, **DETECTIVE COMICS #57-65** and **WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #4-6**.

